

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT  
UNDERGRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECT  
IN  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
SUBMITTAL FORM

**Reclaiming the Right to Water: Hasbani River as resource**

by  
**Lama Amin Amin**

LDEM 242- ADVANCED DESIGN  
SPRING **2019-2020**  
CAPSTONE PROJECT COORDINATOR:  
**Maria Gabriella Trovato**  
PRIMARY ADVISOR:  
**Maria Gabriella Trovato**  
SECONDARY ADVISORS:  
**Balsam Al Ariss**  
**Mona Khechen**

Approved by Project Coordinator:



[Signature]

---

**Maria Gabriella Trivato, Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management**

Date of project presentation

**May 8, 2020**



An aerial photograph of a valley. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of green trees. In the middle ground, a cluster of buildings is visible, including a large building with a red and white striped awning. A river flows through the valley. In the background, there are rolling hills with sparse vegetation and some buildings scattered across the slopes. The sky is overcast and grey.

# RECLAIMING THE RIGHT TO WATER HASBANI RIVER AS A RESOURCE

LAMA AMIN - FINAL YEAR PROJECT  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T

1	ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
2	PROJECT STATEMENT
3	SITE CONTEXT
4	INVENTORY
5	RESEARCH
6	BASE MAP
7	BASE SECTIONS
8	ANALYSIS
9	OPPURTUNITIES
10	CONSTRAINTS
11	PROJECT CONCEPT
12	STRATEGY & DESIGN
13	DESIGN INTERVENTIONS
14	BIBLIOGRAPHY





# A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING ME THROUGHOUT MY FINAL YEAR PROJECT. FIRST, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO MY SUPERVISORS, PROFESSORS TROVATO, AL ARISS, AND KHECHEN, FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM, PATIENCE, INSIGHTFUL COMMENTS, HELPFUL INFORMATION, PRACTICAL ADVICE, AND UNCEASING IDEAS THAT HAVE HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY AT ALL TIMES IN MY PROJECT.

ALSO, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE LIBRARY RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT, AS WELL AS MUNICIPALITY OF HASBAYA, FOR PROVIDING ME WITH THE HELPFUL RESOURCES AND RESEARCH MATERIAL THROUGHOUT MY PROJECT. LASTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK DR. YASER ABUNNASER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR HIS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT, AND USAID FOR FUNDING MY STUDIES AT AUB THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (USP).



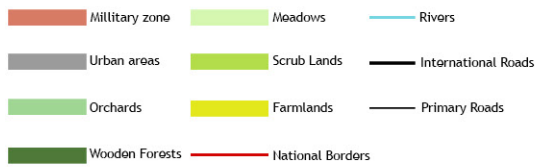




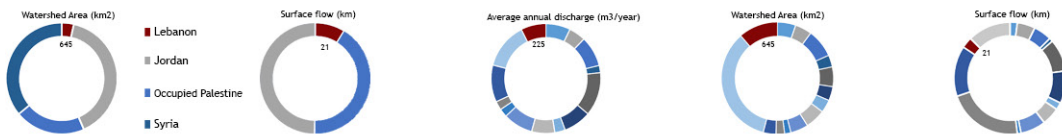
# P R O J E C T   S T A T E M E N T

HASBANI RIVER, A MAJOR TRIBUTARY OF THE JORDAN RIVER, RUNS FOR 25 MILES IN LEBANON BEFORE CROSSING THE BORDER AND REACHING OCCUPIED PALESTINE. LEBANON'S RIGHTFUL SHARE OF THIS RIVER IS 35 MILLION M<sup>3</sup> IN WATER VOLUME, BUT REGIONAL CONFLICTS HAVE LED TO THE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF THE RIVER AS A WATER RESOURCE FOR ITS SURROUNDING AREAS, AND POOR MANAGEMENT RESULTED IN THE POLLUTION OF IT. MY PROJECT AIMS TO RECLAIM THE RIGHT OF THESE SURROUNDING AREAS AND THEIR INHABITANTS TO CLEAN WATER, AND TO REVIVE THE RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM THAT WAS FADING AWAY IN SOME AREAS. IT SEES THE RIVER AS A NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE THAT CAN PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEMS SURROUNDING IT AND CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

# S I T E C O N T E X T



The upper Jordan River Landcover



Lebanon's part of Jordan River

Hasbani in relation to the total of rivers in Lebanon



Hasbani River flow in Lebanon

# I N V E N T O R Y

Due to the controversial geopolitical location and context on the borders, I have studied the major events and decisions in history that have affected this river

**1948-1956**  
"Israel National water carrier"

**1964**  
Arab countries convention project.

**1967**  
Six days war and occupation of golan heights.

Water pump

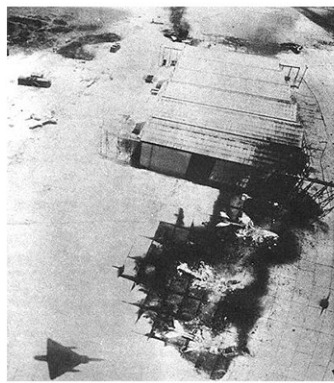
Lebanon's  
Lebanon's s  
Actual quan  
Total of wat



Water distribution from each plan  
Quantities in million cubic meters

Plan	Israel	Jordan	Syria	Lebanon	Total
Johnston (1953)	394	774	45	0	1,213
Cotton (1954)	1,290	575	30	451	2,346
Arab (1954)	182	698	132	443	1,047

Source: Data compiled by the author from the three proposals: Johnston 1953, Cotton 1954, and Arab Technical Committee, 1954.

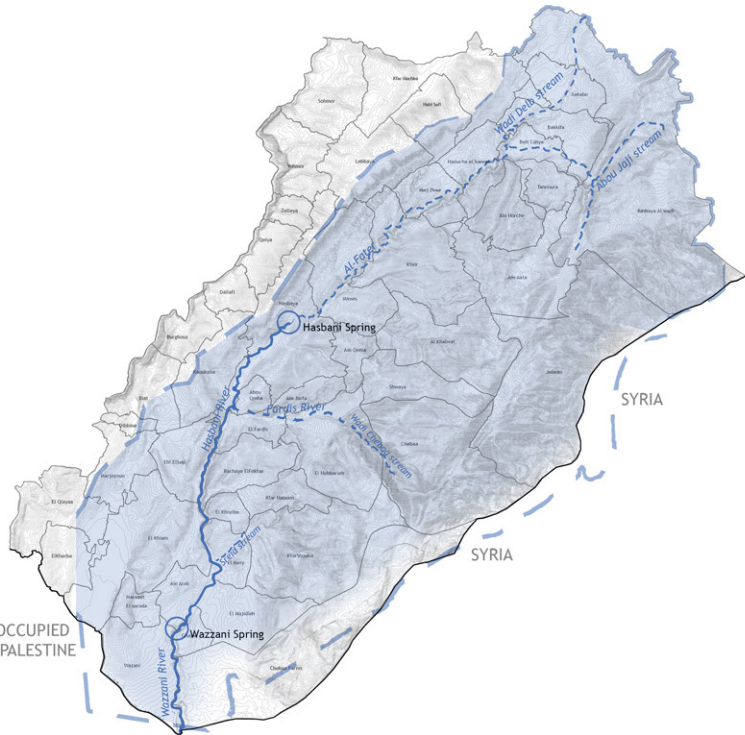


Israeli destruction of the project's works

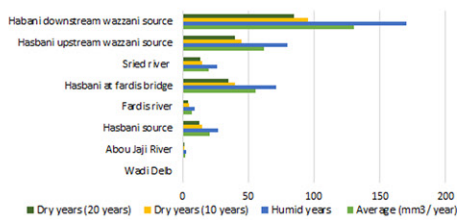
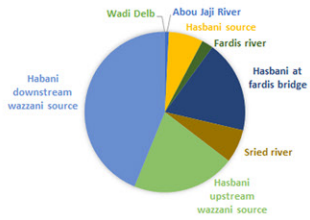


"Operation Litani and Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and water pumps"

# S I T E C O N T E X T



Watershed Map



Al Hasbani River



Fardis River



Al wazzani spring



Al Hasbani spring



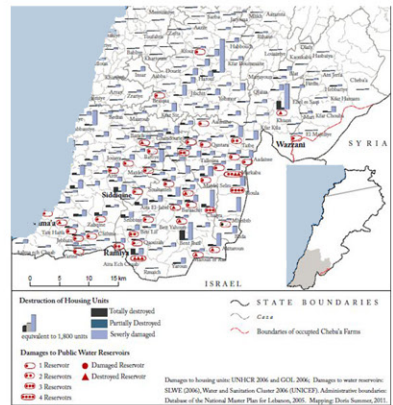
# I N V E N T O R Y

1994  
Pumping station established in Hasbaya on Hasbani Source.



Rightful share of water	35 Mm <sup>3</sup> /year
Share from hasbaya pump	12Mm <sup>3</sup> /year
Share after 2002 wazzani conflict	7 Mm <sup>3</sup> /year
Quantity pumped today from wazzani	4.4 Mm <sup>3</sup> /year
Quantity pumped today	17 Mm <sup>3</sup> /year

2006  
South Lebanon summer war : Reservoir and pumps at the booster station partially destroyed. Destruction of public water reservoirs



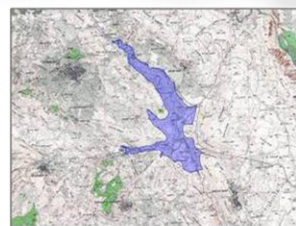
2019  
Zoning of Hasbani river in Hasbaya as Zone P: Touristic



Max Residential Built allowed in a lot	5%
Max Touristic Built Allowed in a lot	15%
Max height	5 m
Minimum set back from river bank	15 m
Sound Noise allowed	Until 12 am



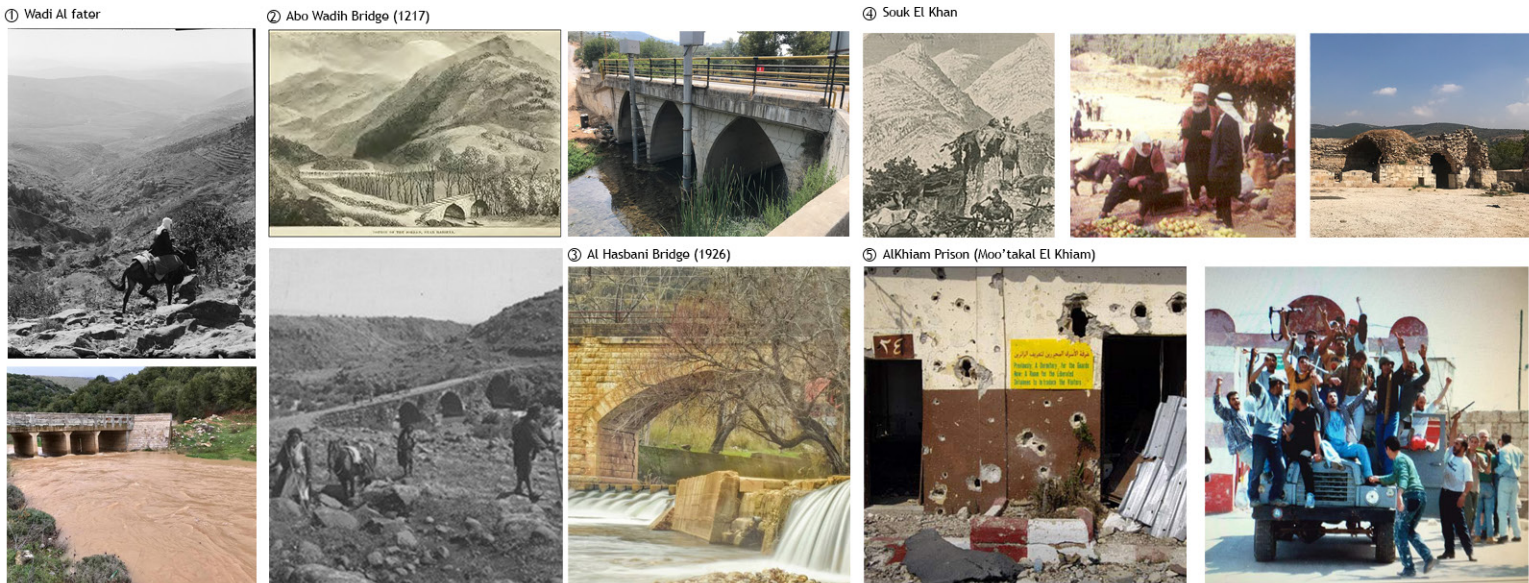
Wazzani Pumps project and sewage water plant implemented for Hasbaya village only  
2002



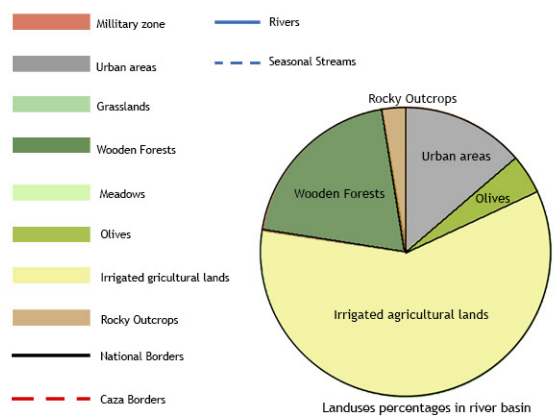
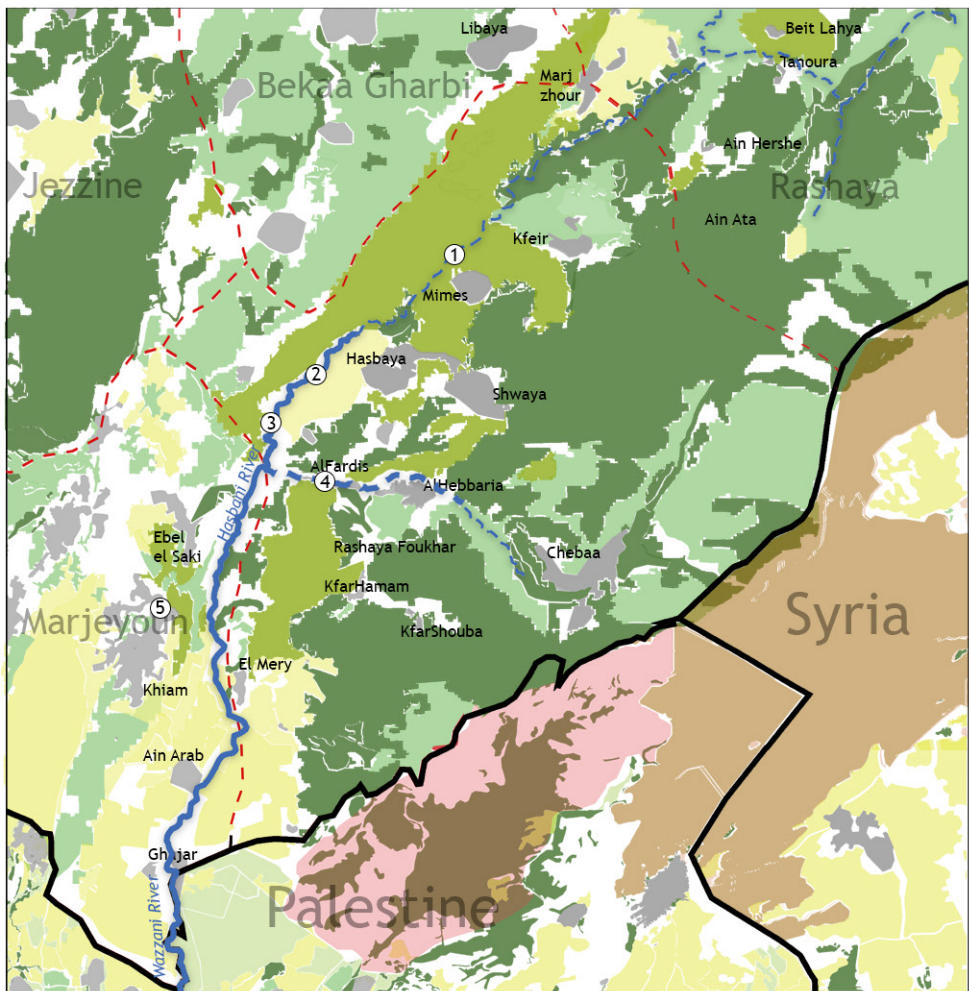
Ibi Al saki Dam project part of GDHER integrated water resource plan for Lebanon-Not Implemented  
2010

# INVENTORY

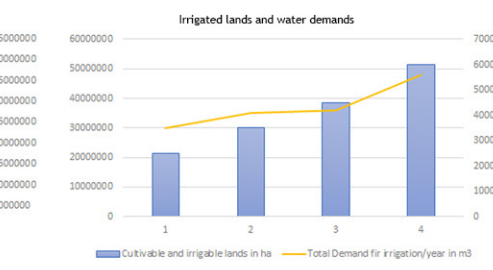
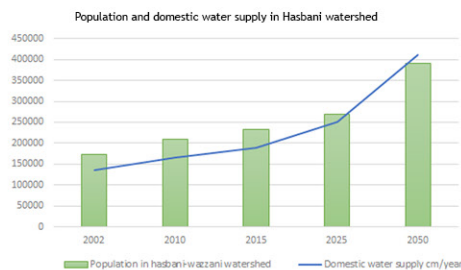
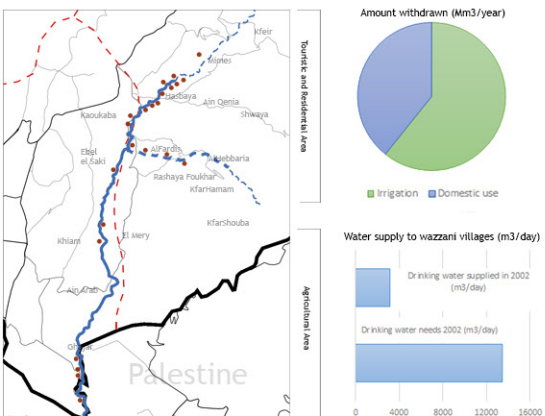
After studying the landuses and activities along the river, it was noticed that agriculture is the dominant landuse along the whole river, with tourism in certain areas.



Historical and cultural elements



Hasbani watershed in Lebanon Landuse Map



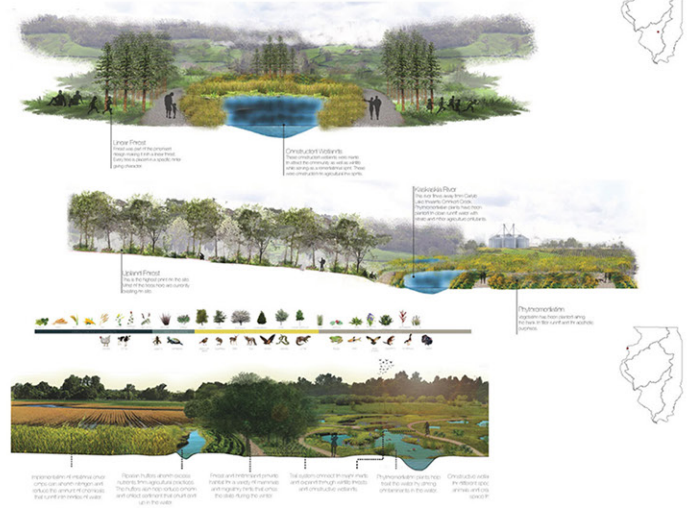
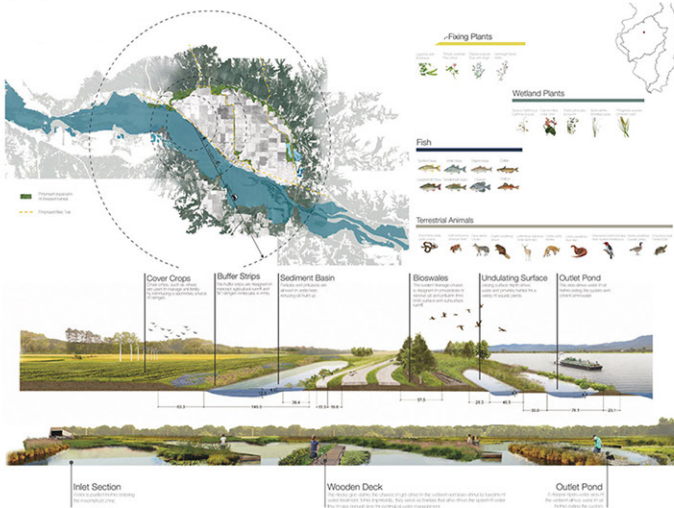
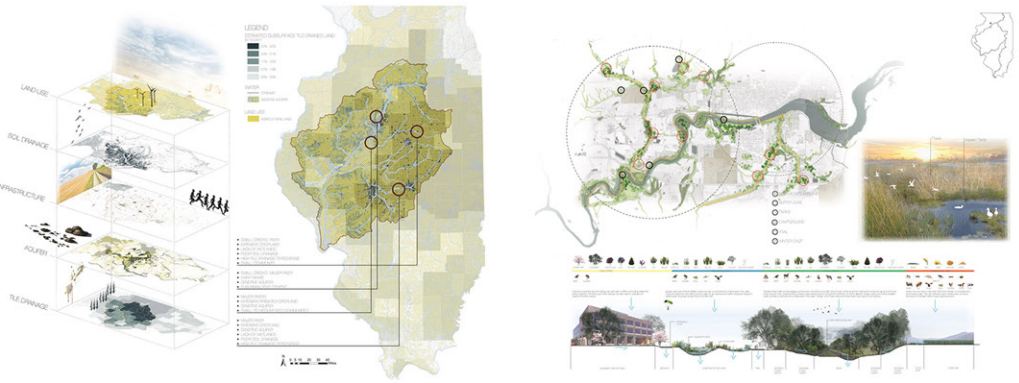
Activities along the River

# RESEARCH

## Case study 1: Water and the Agricultural Landscape of Illinois

Project realized by students in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
ASLA 2017 student award of excellence in analysis and planning.

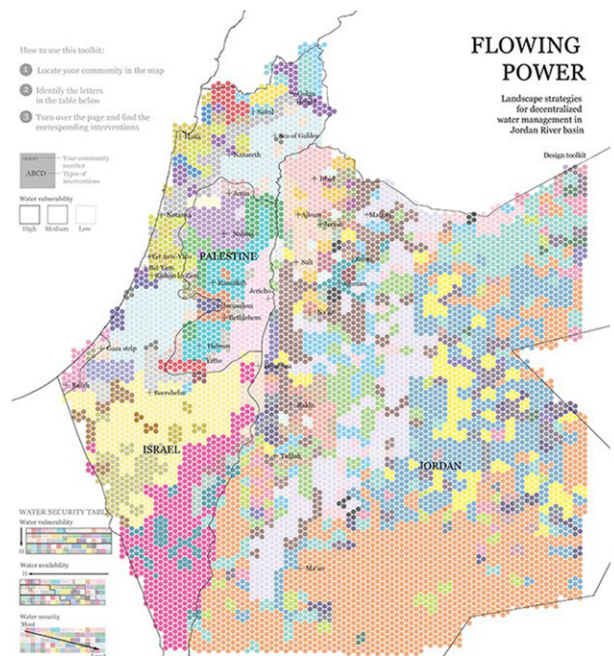
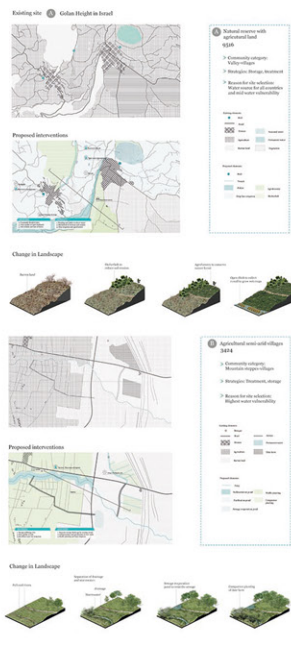
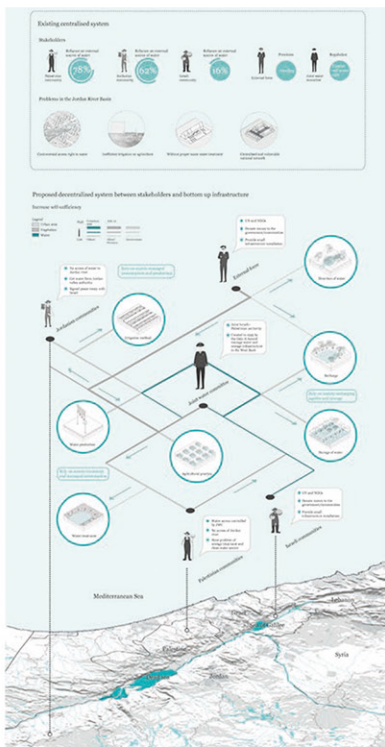
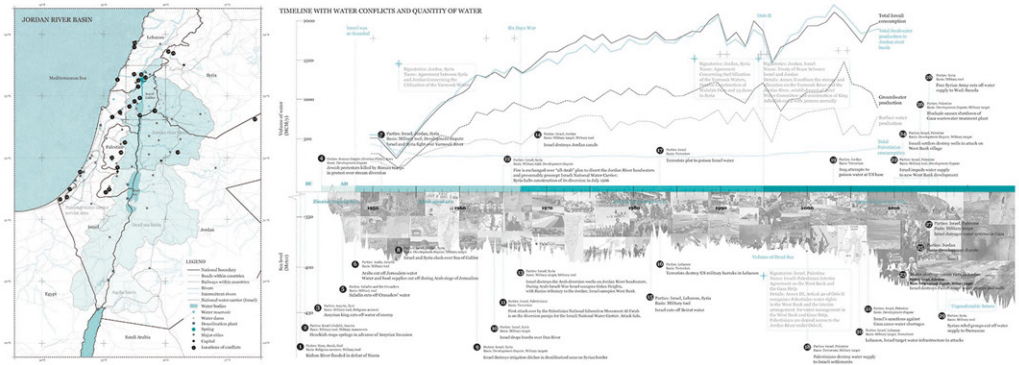
Since the passing of the 1972 Clean Water Act, the United States has been fairly successful at reducing point source contaminant loads in its nation's water resources. However, despite the relative success, progress needs to be made to ensure water quality. Non-point sources are generally unregulated and continue to adversely affect water quality efforts. Agricultural runoff accounts for the majority of non-point source discharges. Unfortunately, the fertilizers that usually ensure crop health ultimately place distress on aquatic systems. The state of Illinois is one of the leading contributors of fertilizer contaminant loads to the Mississippi River, and in turn the state has a tentative goal of reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loads by 45%. By framing agricultural strategies in the context of landscape architecture, the project aims to provide thoughtful solutions to agricultural issues while keeping the well being of farmers in mind. Instead of completely changing the science behind agricultural practices, the suggested series of interconnected projects offer complementary design strategies such as constructed wetlands to reduce the detrimental effects of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers.



## Case study 2: Water as Conflict Mediator: A Toolkit for a Decentralised System in Jordan River Basin

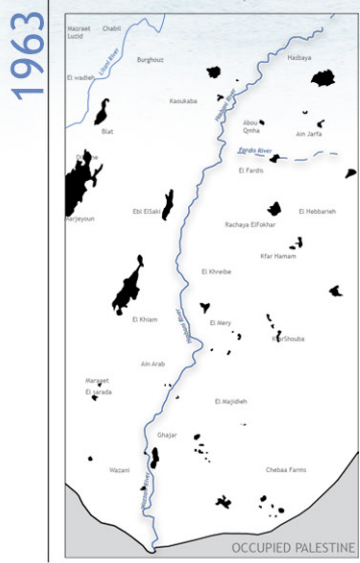
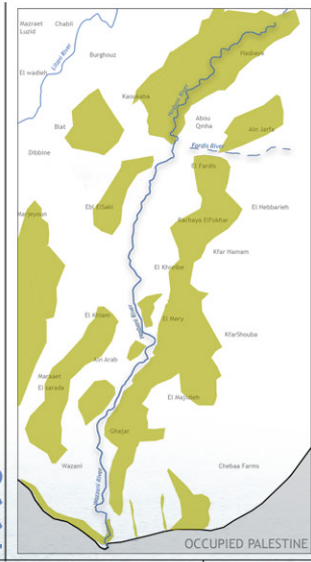
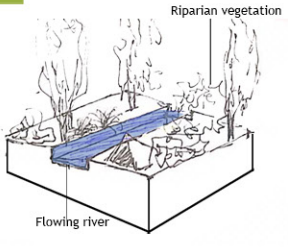
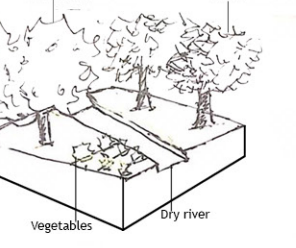
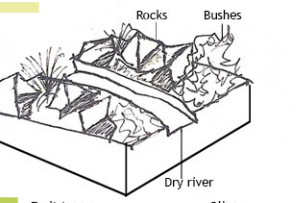
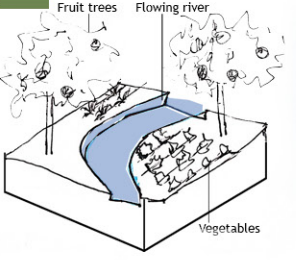
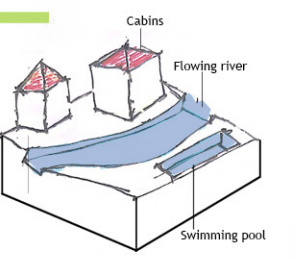
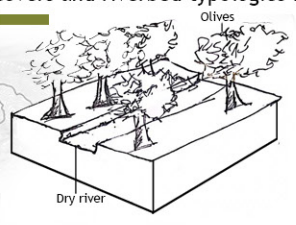
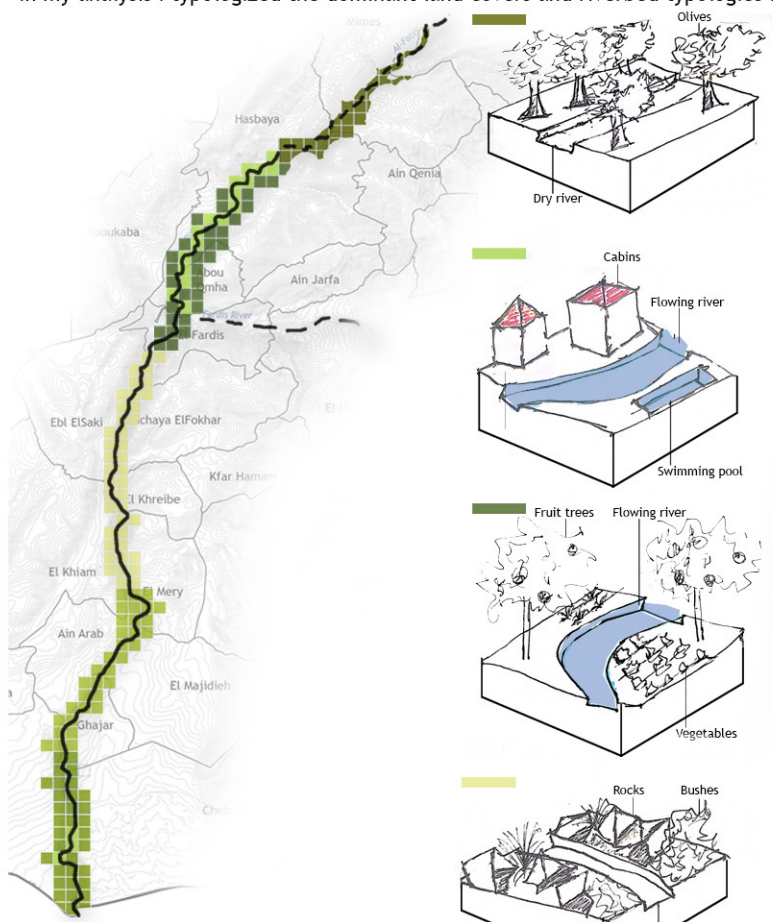
Project realized by Natalie Wai Yan Law from University of Hong Kong.  
ASLA 2019 student award of honor in analysis and planning.

The project examines the impact of transboundary water politics on water supply and the access rights in the Jordan River Basin. It proposes a new design framework that enables an inclusive and participatory new strategic plan for a decentralized system to achieve water security at the community level and to resolve conflicts at the regional level. It offers a viable alternative to the current centralized water management system and proposes to assert water security as a critical role in achieving political stability. Navigating between the geopolitical system and landscape features within the shared river basin, the project enables community capacity building to attain water security. It proposes a new link between water and stability, and provides a strategic toolkit that transforms water into a conflict mediator.



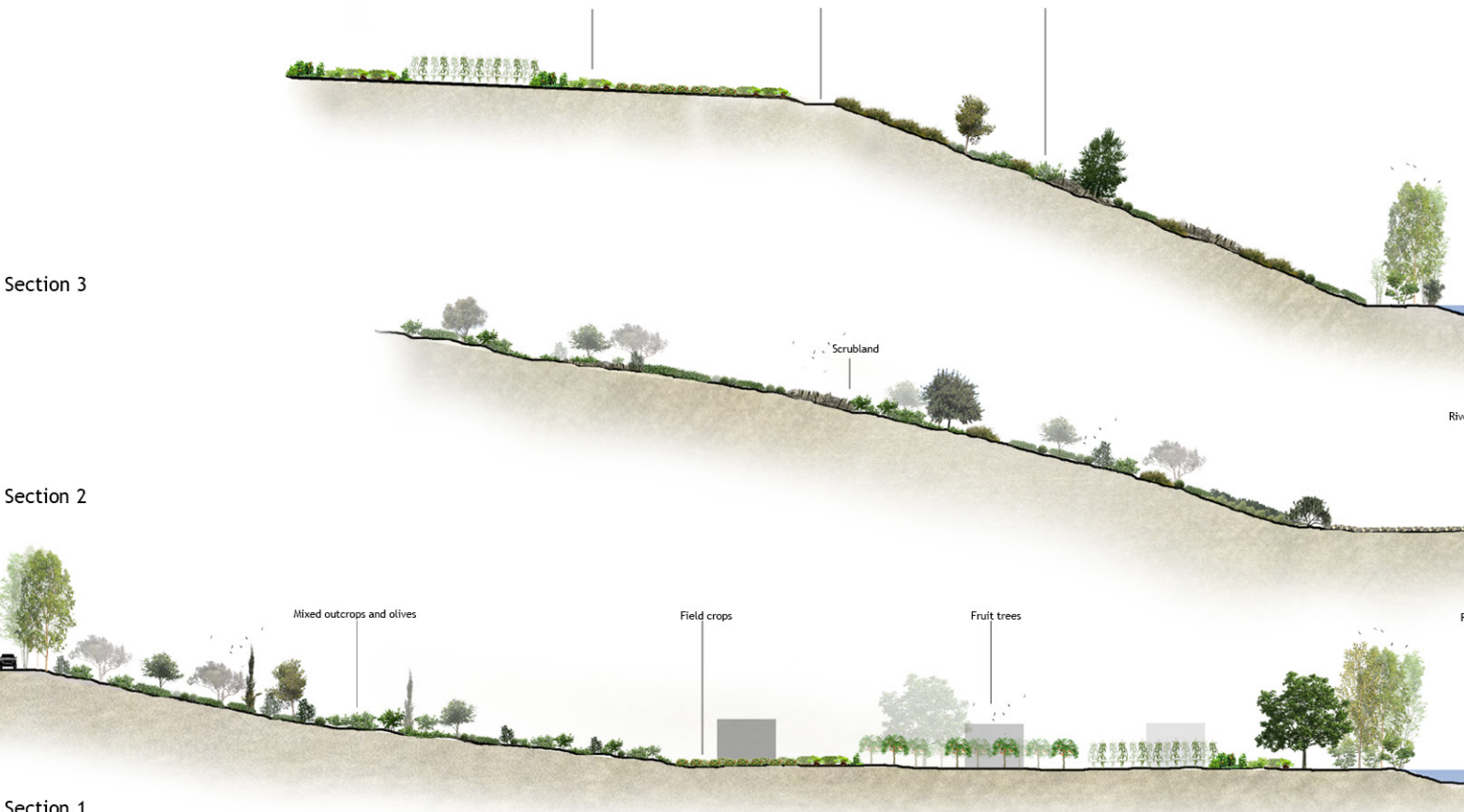
# ANALYSIS

In my analysis I typologized the dominant land covers and riverbed typologies along the river, and I looked up the evolution of the landscape with time and how



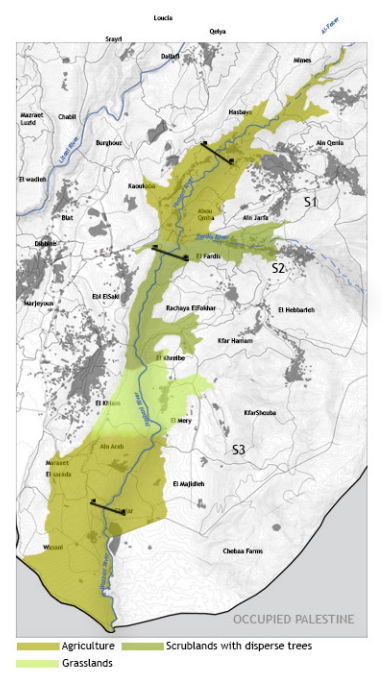
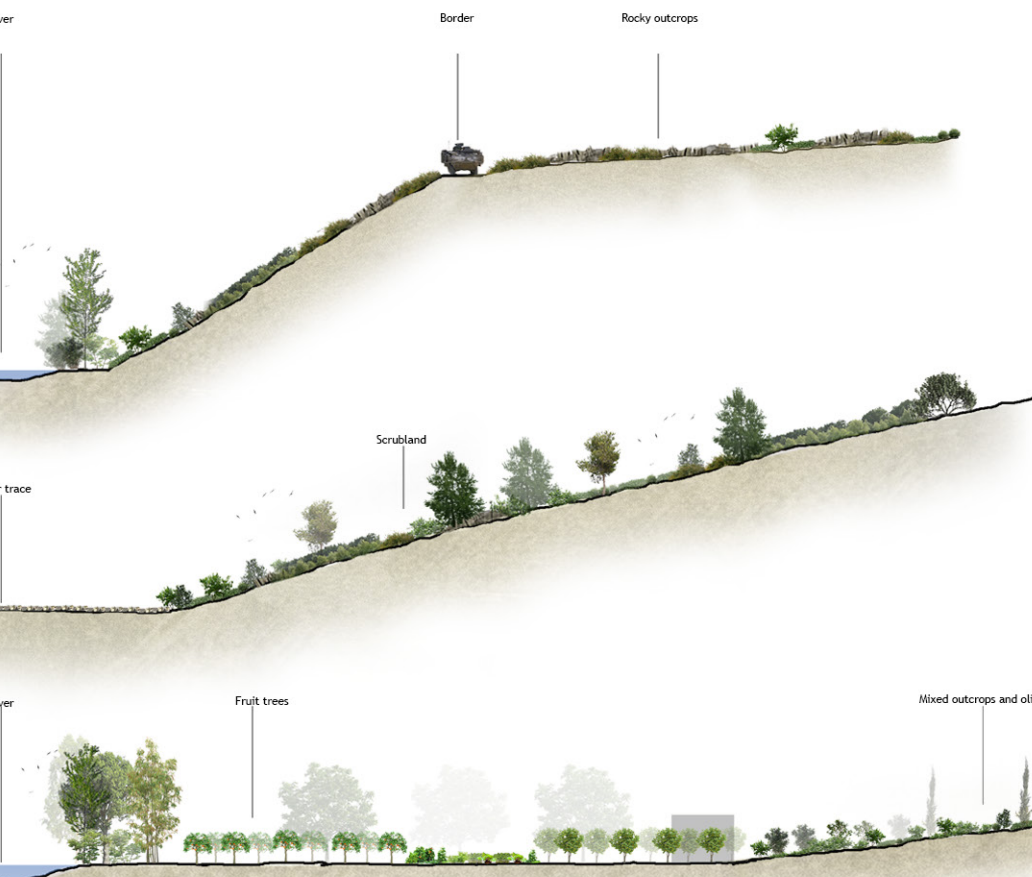
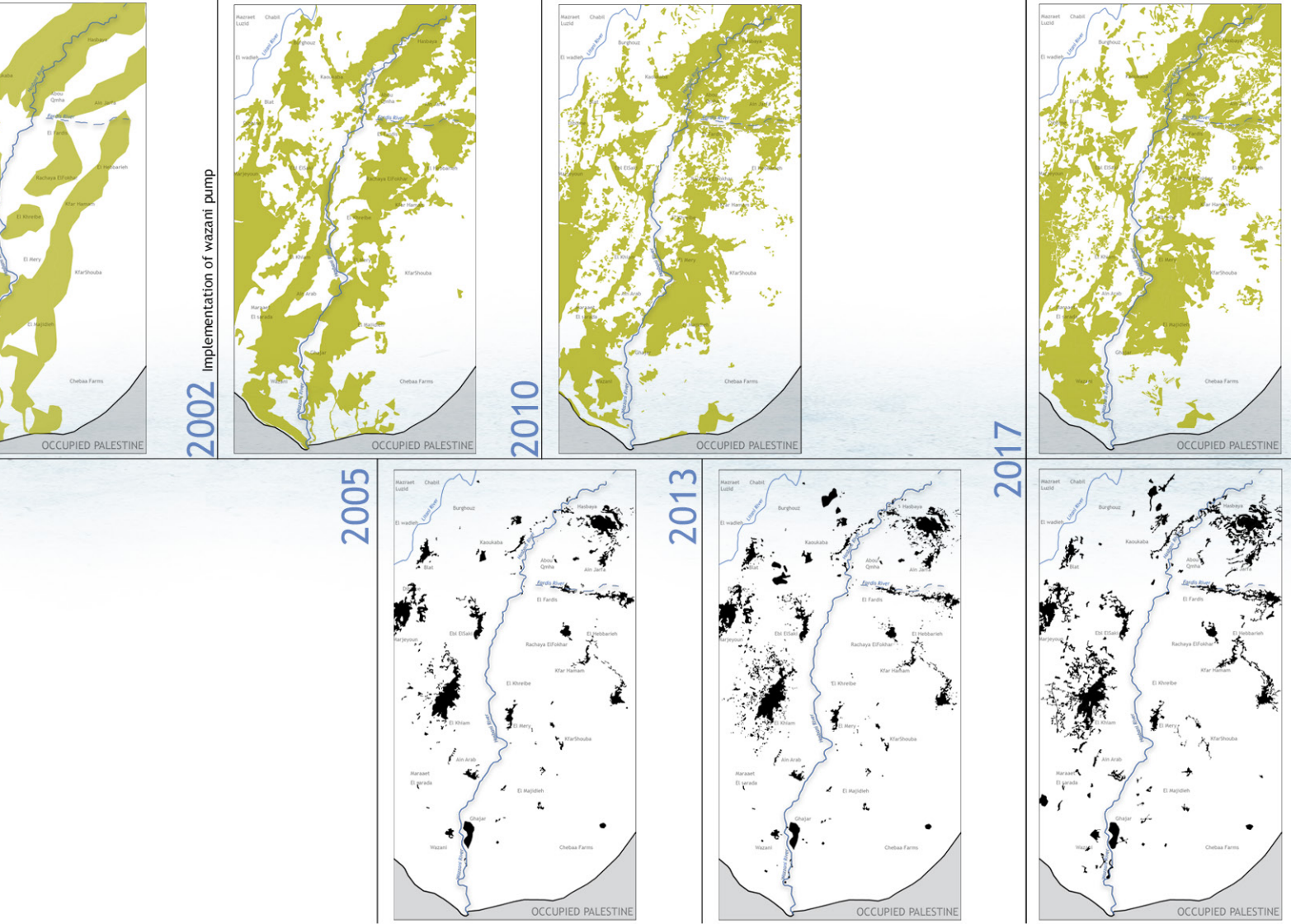
Landscape Evolution over time

## Riverbed Typologies



# ANALYSIS

it's related to historical and cultural elements



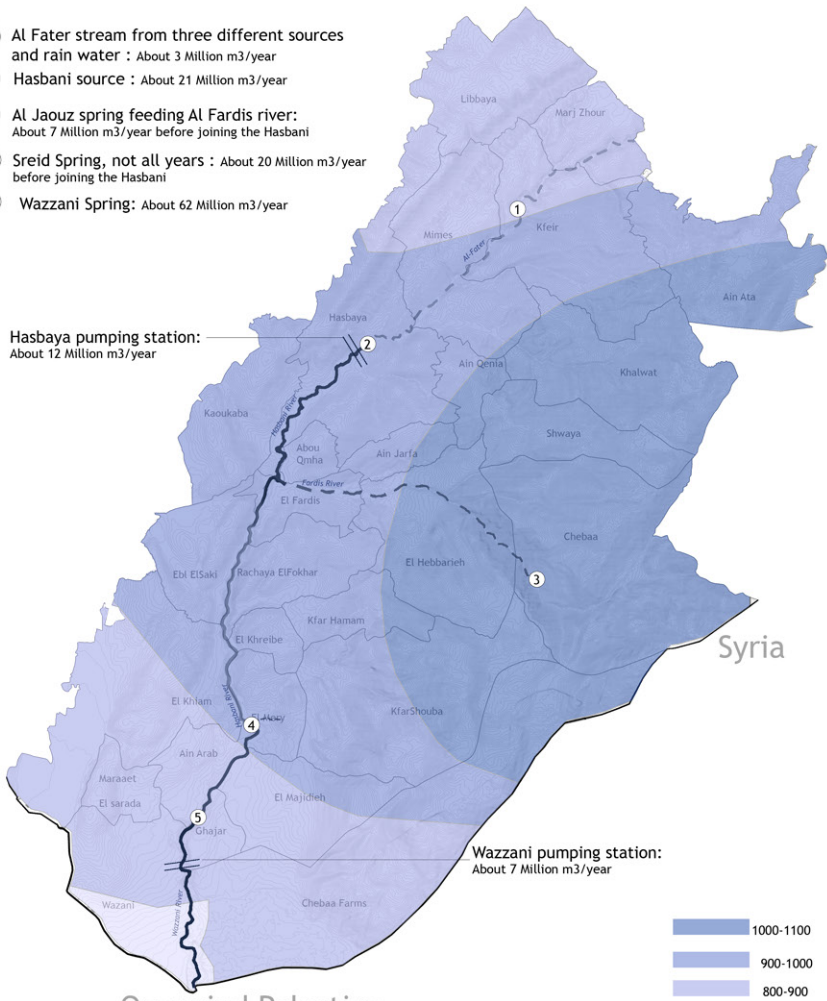
Dominant landcovers along the river

# ANALYSIS

I focused on three main components: Water, its quantity and need for it; Agriculture, the dominant landcover along the river; and Pollution which constitute

## Water quantity analysis with relation to rainfall

- 1 Al Fater stream from three different sources and rain water : About 3 Million m<sup>3</sup>/year
- 2 Hasbani source : About 21 Million m<sup>3</sup>/year
- 3 Al Jaouz spring feeding Al Fardis river: About 7 Million m<sup>3</sup>/year before joining the Hasbani
- 4 Sreid Spring, not all years : About 20 Million m<sup>3</sup>/year before joining the Hasbani
- 5 Wazzani Spring: About 62 Million m<sup>3</sup>/year



## Water quantity by months

February - 12 m<sup>3</sup>/sec water discharge from sources



May - 7 m<sup>3</sup>/sec water discharge from sources



September - 0.7 m<sup>3</sup>/sec water discharge from sources

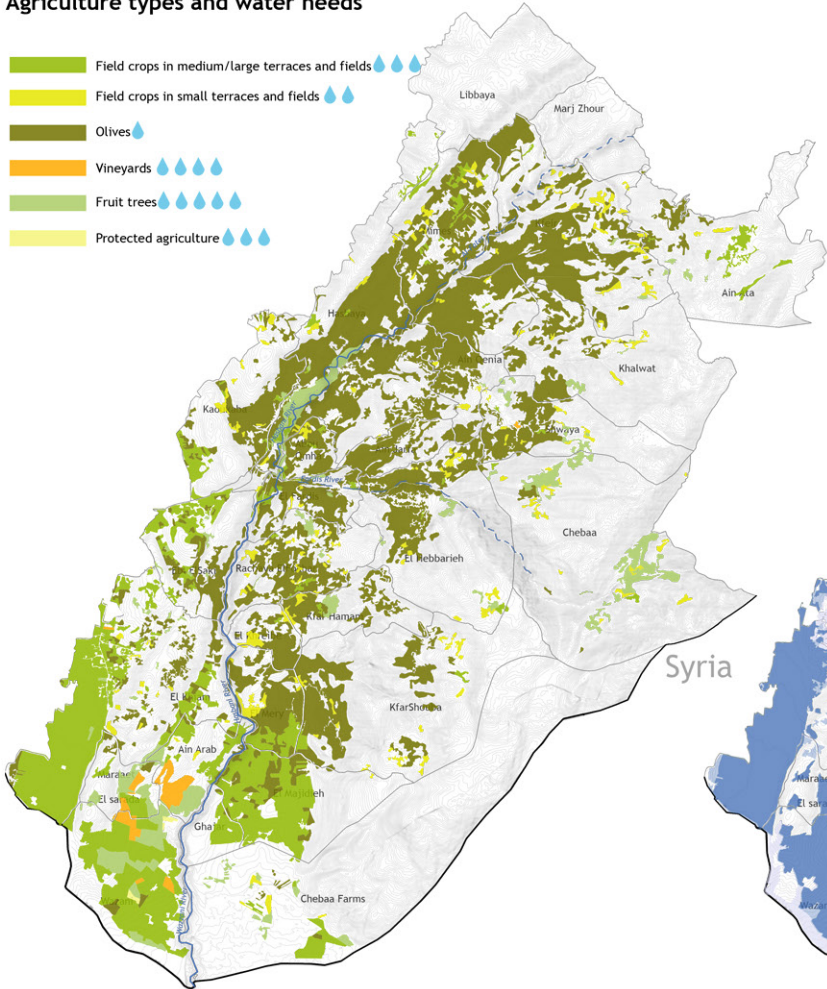


December - 7.5 m<sup>3</sup>/sec water discharge from sources

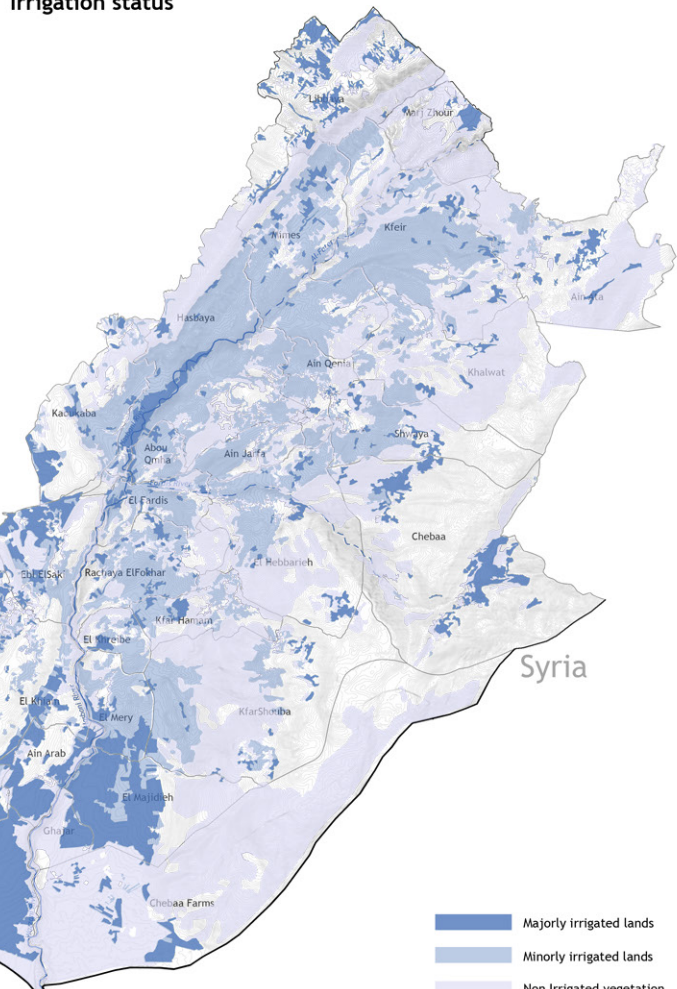


## Agriculture types and water needs

- Field crops in medium/large terraces and fields
- Field crops in small terraces and fields
- Olives
- Vineyards
- Fruit trees
- Protected agriculture



## Irrigation status



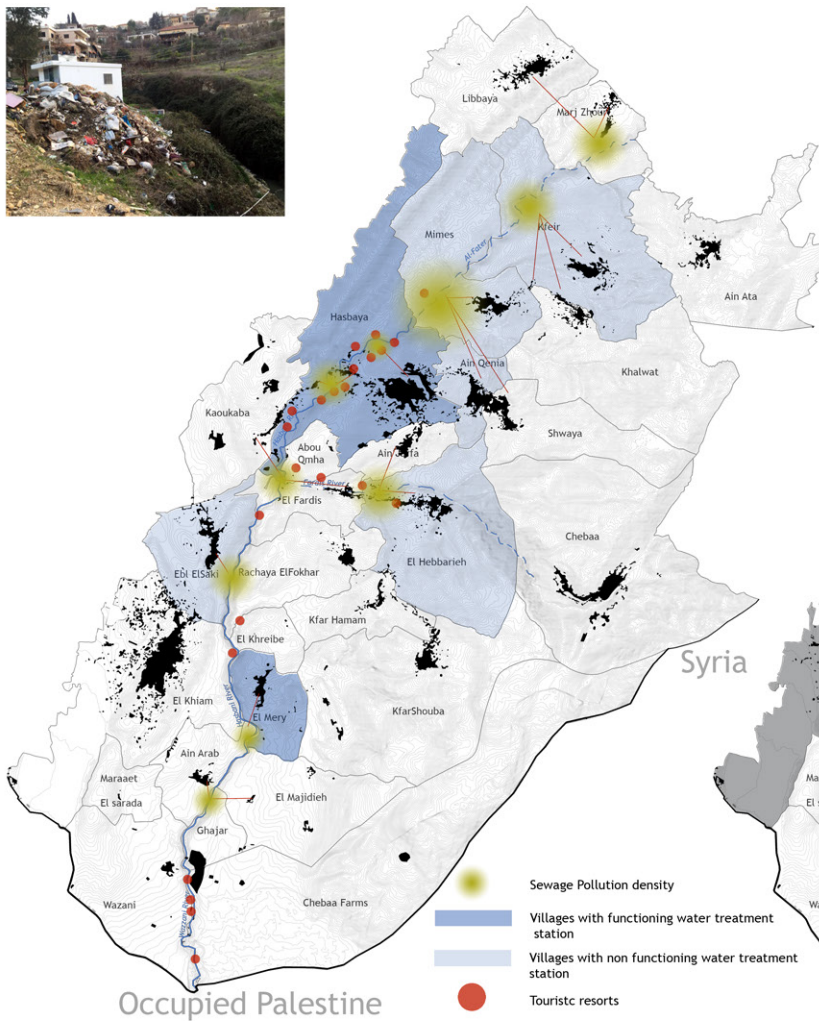
- Majorly irrigated lands
- Minorly irrigated lands
- Non Irrigated vegetation



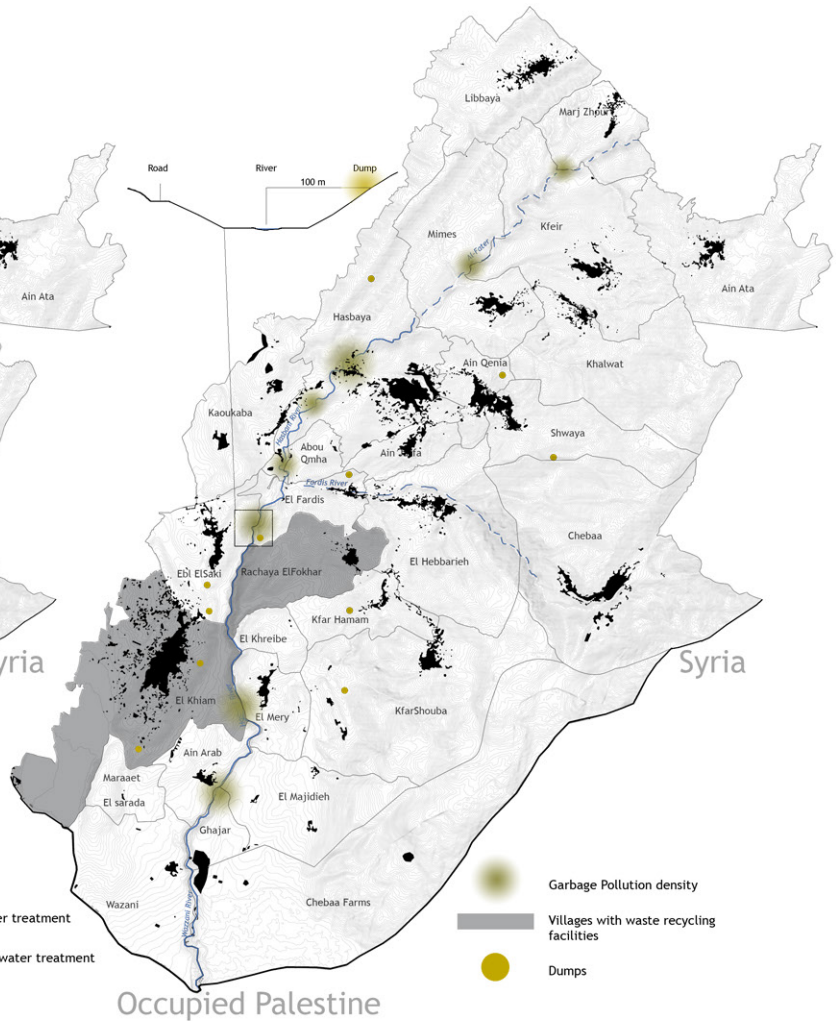
# ANALYSIS

an obstacle constraining people from practicing their Right to Water.

## Household resulting Pollution: Sewage

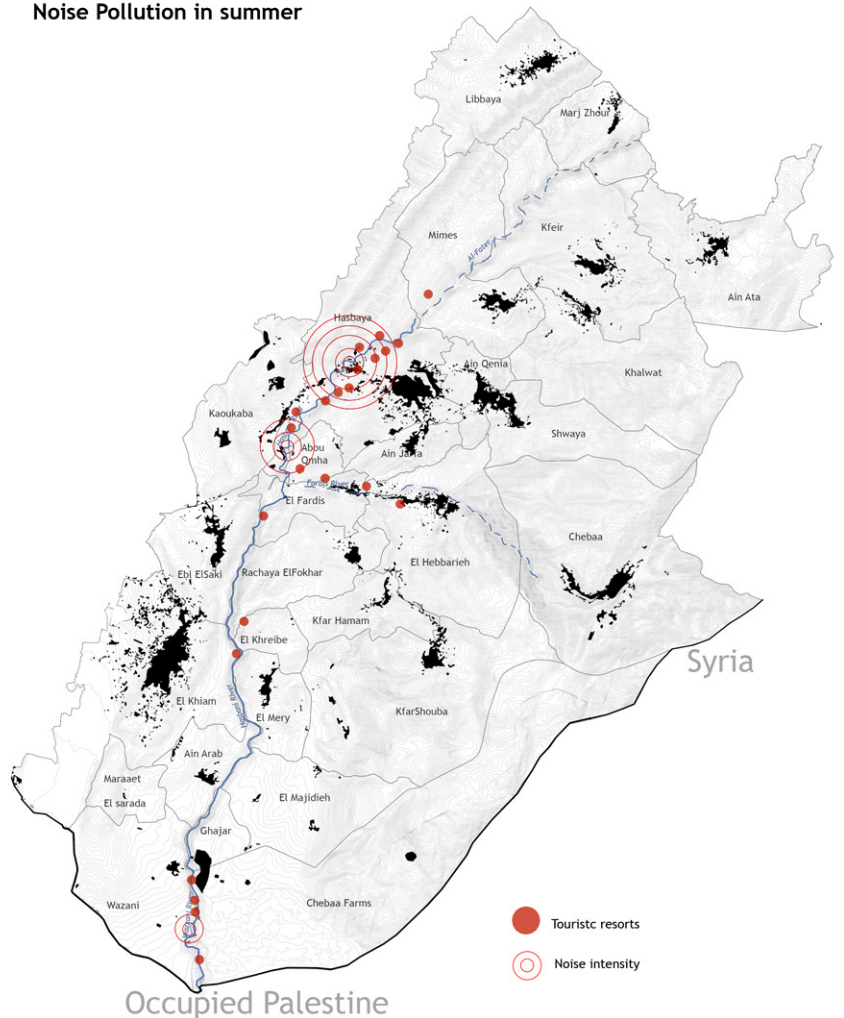
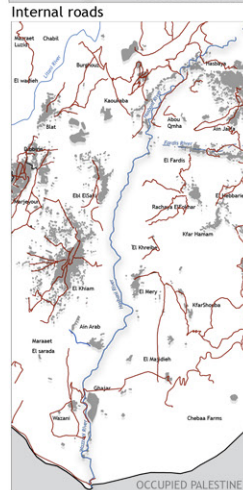
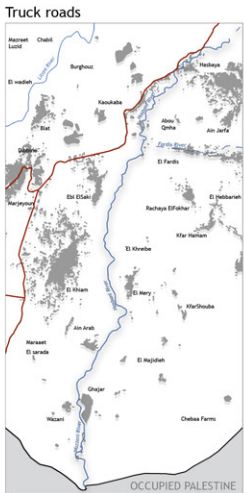


## Household resulting pollution: Garbage



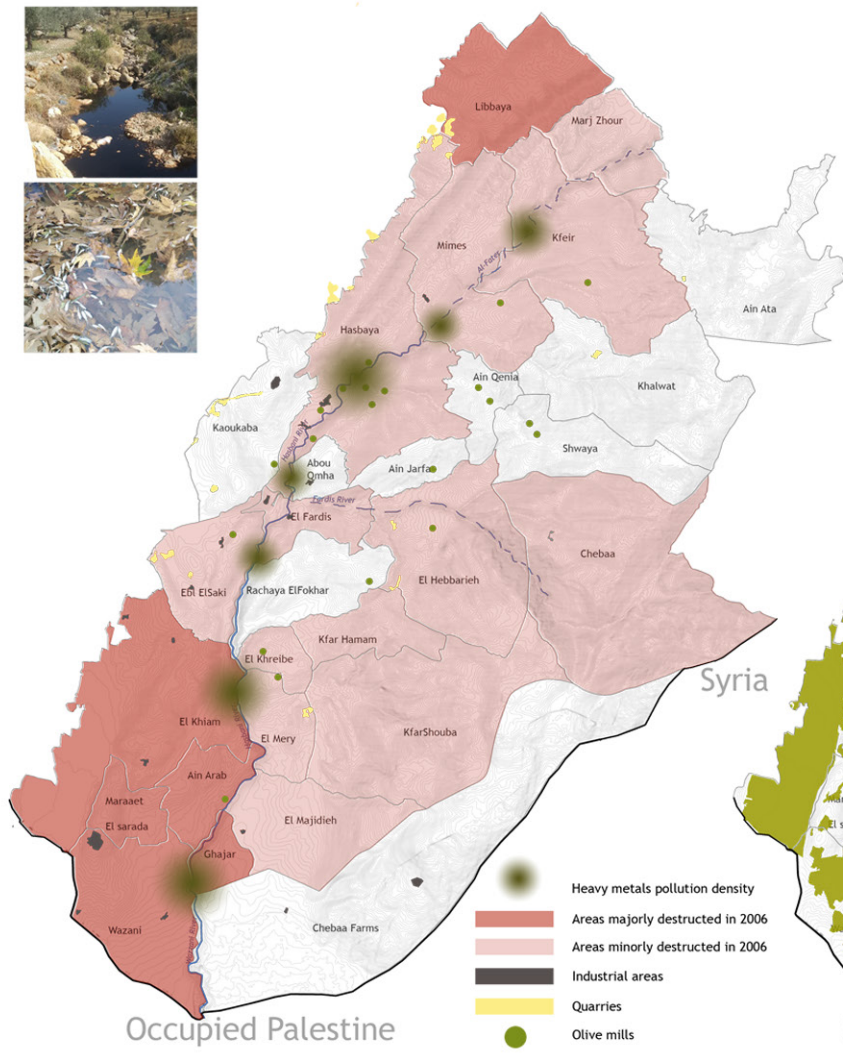
## Proximity of roads infrastructure to the water course

## Noise Pollution in summer

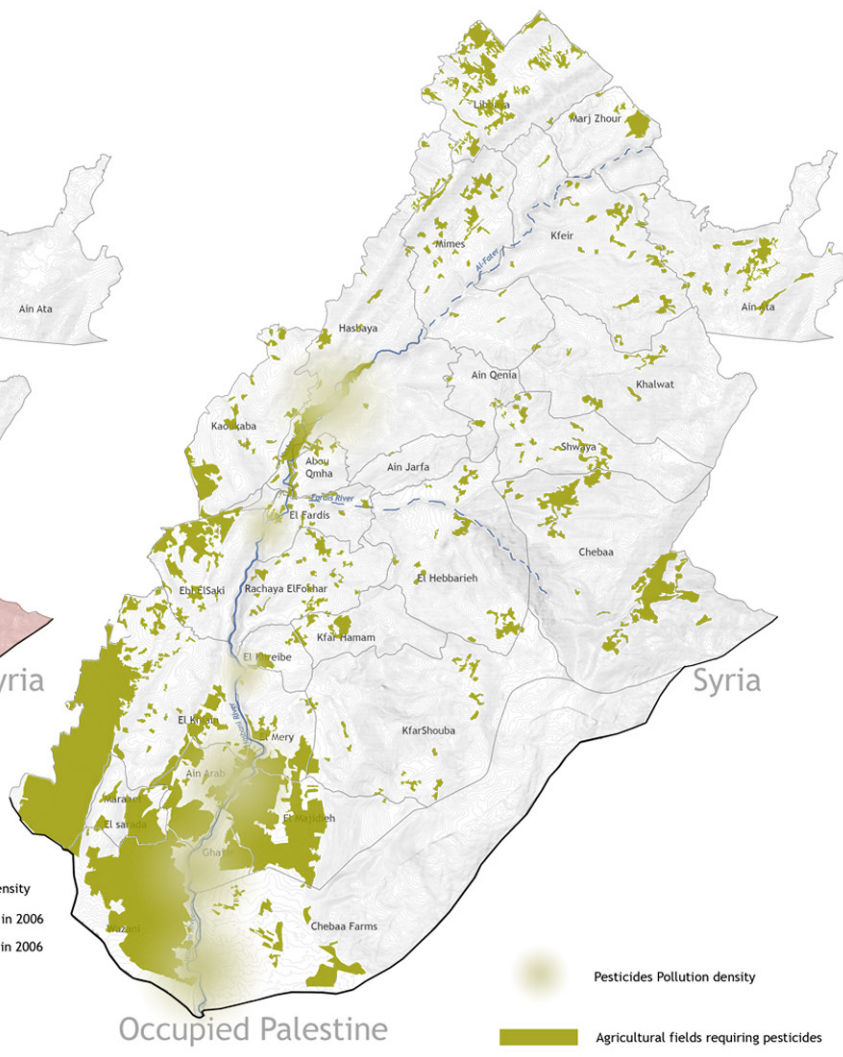


# ANALYSIS

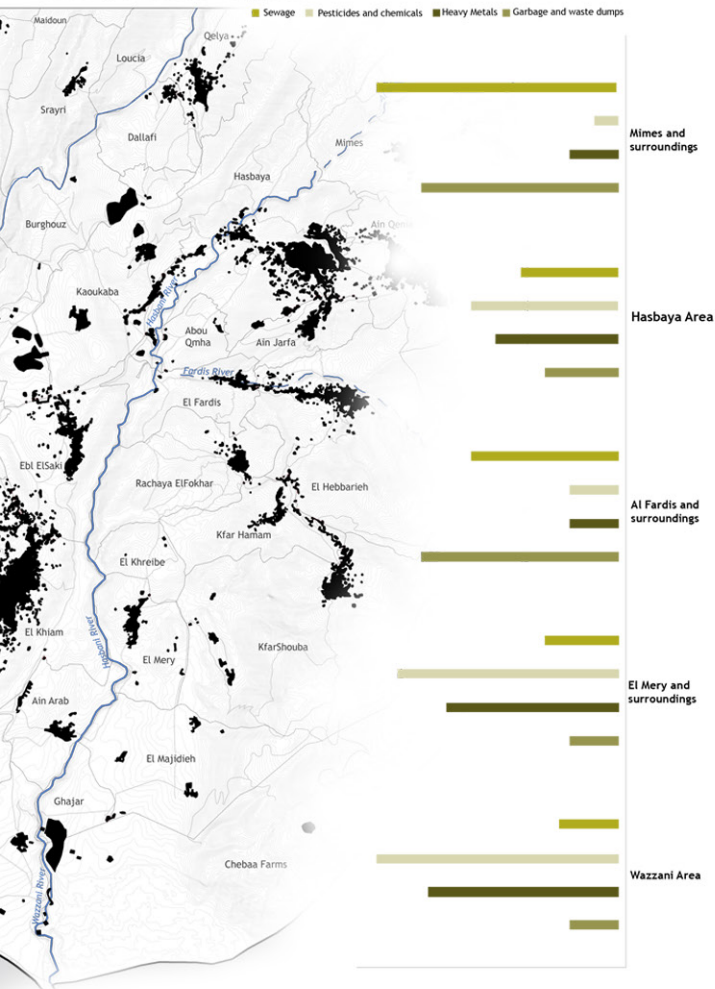
## Industry and war resulting Pollution: Heavy metals



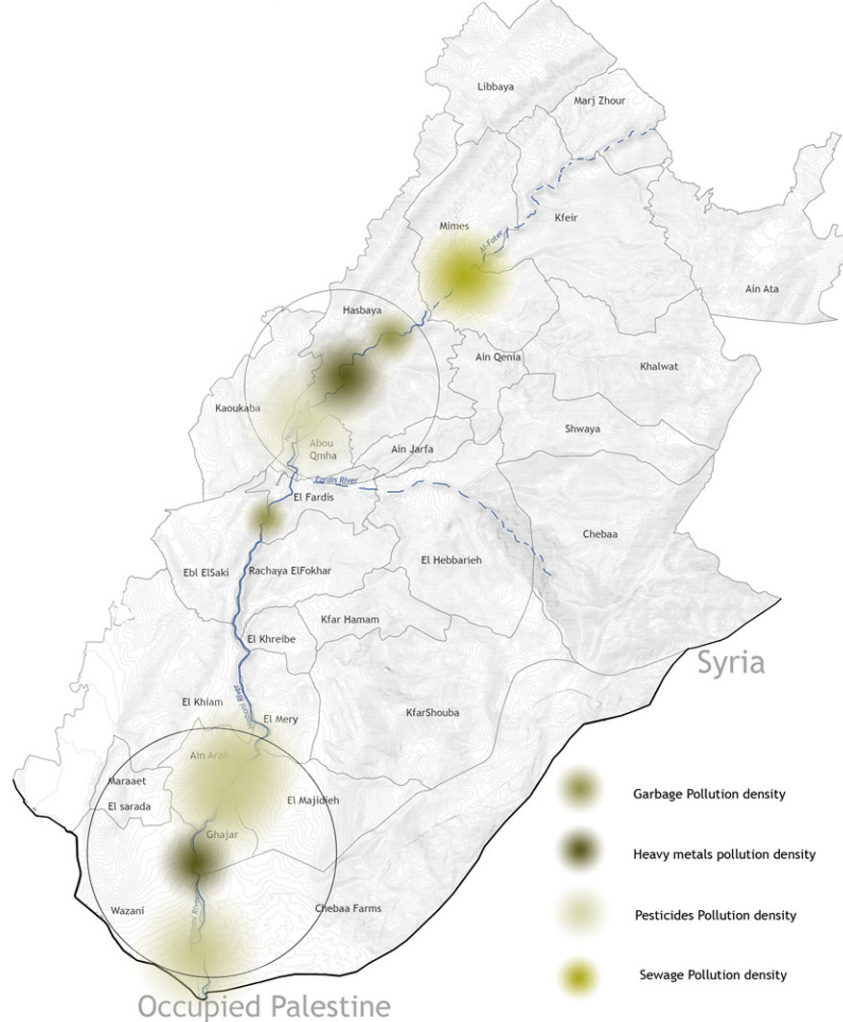
## Agriculture resulting pollution: Pesticides



## Water pollutants diagram



## Conclusion: most polluted areas



## OLIVES REQUIRING MINIMUM WATER

On proximity of the river and streams, a large part of agricultural patches is olives. Local people don't use water for olives, they prefer to feed it on rainwater, which can give us the opportunity of using this water for other purposes

## PURE AND CLEAN WATER SPRINGS

## WATER PUMPING FOR USAGE

This pump gives locals their right to water in their region, specially for domestic use.

## LESS GARBAGE POLLUTION

These recycling facilities provide a process through which waste is collected and treated, which contributes to low level of waste pollution in the river

## ATTRACTING TOURISTIM

The touristic activity especially in Hasbaya and wazzani are considered as an attraction in the region. It also gives the local authority of doing what they want over their Landscapes. It is amended by roads that provide accessibility to the river.

## CLEAN WATER AFTER TREATMENT

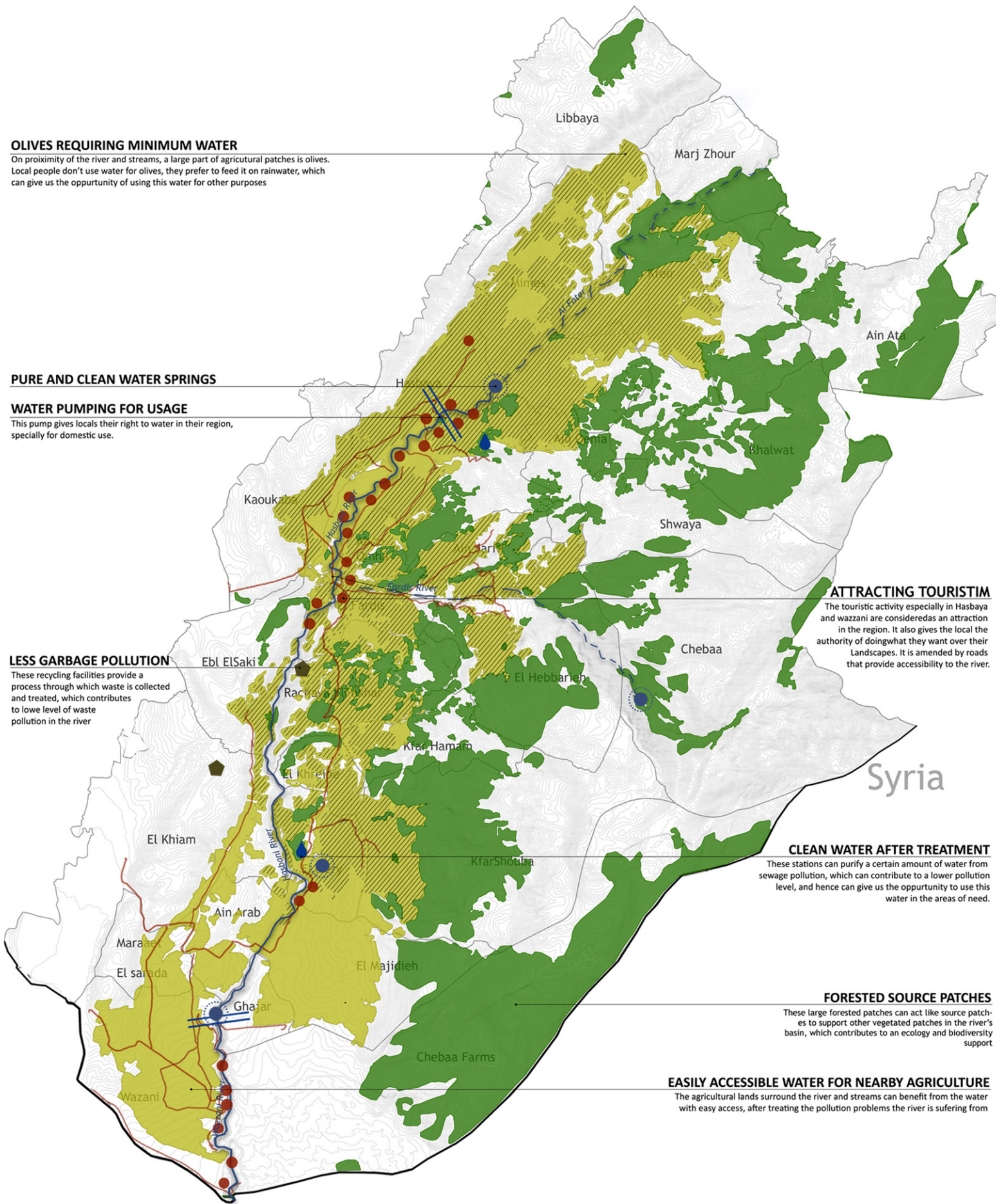
These stations can purify a certain amount of water from sewage pollution, which can contribute to a lower pollution level, and hence can give us the opportunity to use this water in the areas of need.

## FORESTED SOURCE PATCHES

These large forested patches can act like source patches to support other vegetated patches in the river's basin, which contributes to an ecology and biodiversity support

## EASILY ACCESSIBLE WATER FOR NEARBY AGRICULTURE

The agricultural lands surround the river and streams can benefit from the water with easy access, after treating the pollution problems the river is suffering from



## Occupied Palestine

### Legend

Agricultural fields close to river and streams

Roads infrastructure on proximity to the river

Water pumping station

Garbage recycling facility

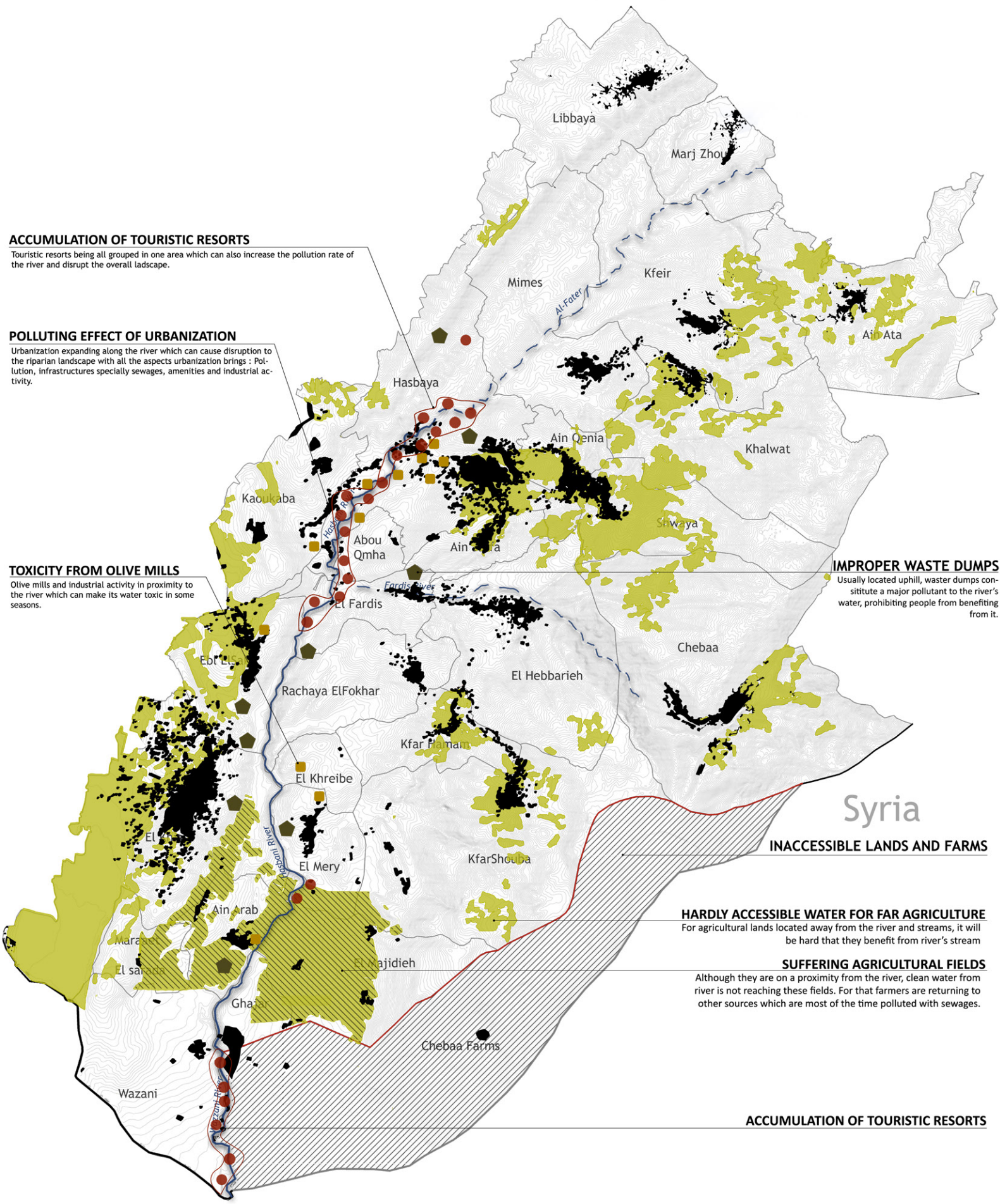
Agriculture that doesn't need water

Touristic resorts

Water treatment station

Water spring

# C O N S T R A I N T S



**ACCUMULATION OF TOURISTIC RESORTS**

Touristic resorts being all grouped in one area which can also increase the pollution rate of the river and disrupt the overall landscape.

**POLLUTING EFFECT OF URBANIZATION**

Urbanization expanding along the river which can cause disruption to the riparian landscape with all the aspects urbanization brings : Pollution, infrastructures specially sewages, amenities and industrial activity.

**TOXICITY FROM OLIVE MILLS**

Olive mills and industrial activity in proximity to the river which can make its water toxic in some seasons.

**IMPROPER WASTE DUMPS**

Usually located uphill, waste dumps constitute a major pollutant to the river's water, prohibiting people from benefiting from it.

**INACCESSIBLE LANDS AND FARMS**

**HARDLY ACCESSIBLE WATER FOR FAR AGRICULTURE**

For agricultural lands located away from the river and streams, it will be hard that they benefit from river's stream

**SUFFERING AGRICULTURAL FIELDS**

Although they are on a proximity from the river, clean water from river is not reaching these fields. For that farmers are returning to other sources which are most of the time polluted with sewages.

**ACCUMULATION OF TOURISTIC RESORTS**

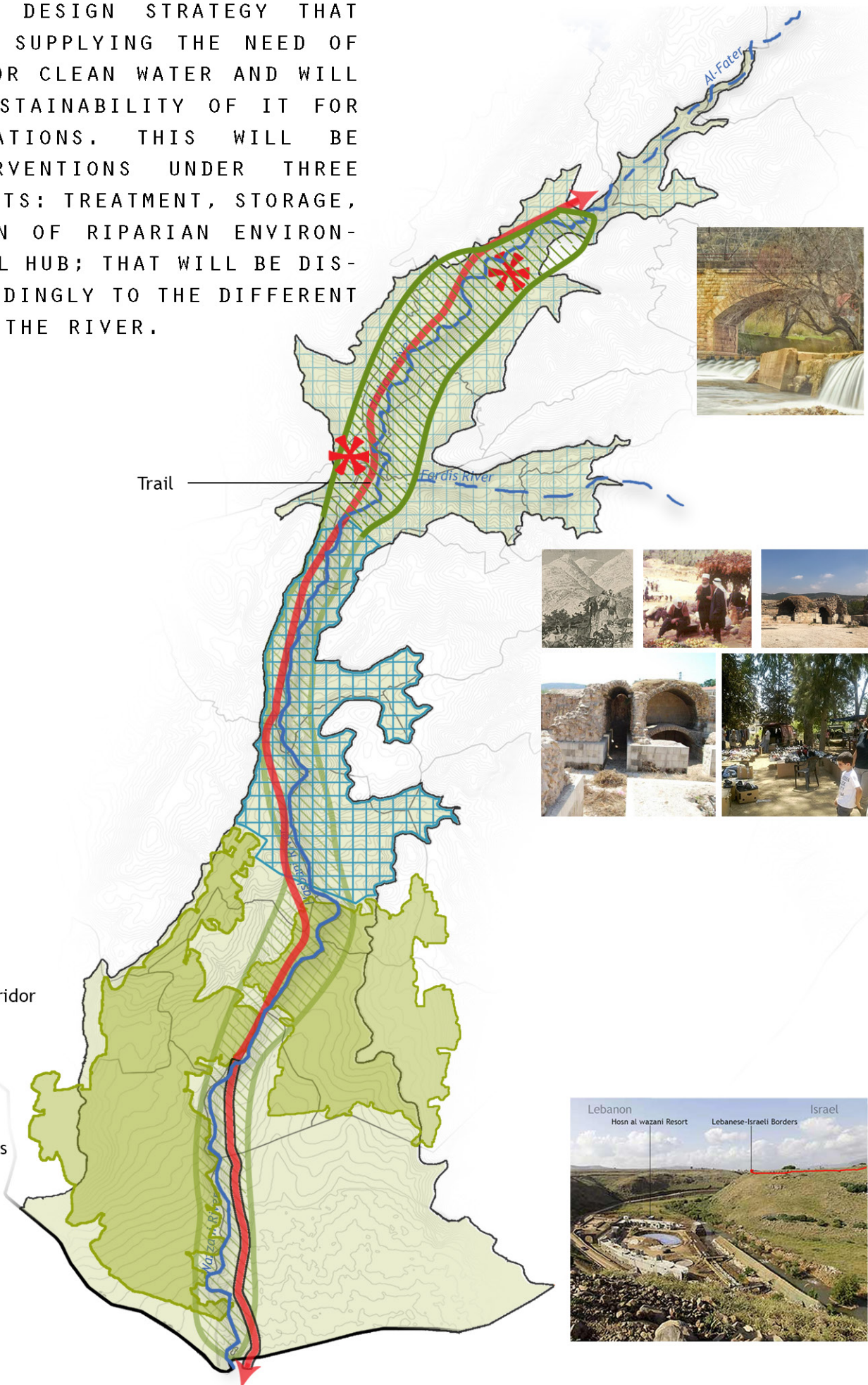
## Occupied Palestine





**Legend**

- Agricultural lands far from the river
- Inaccessible lands
- Olive mills
- Suffering agricultural fields
- Garbage Dumps
- Touristic resorts

# P R O J E C T C O N C E P T

ON THE LARGE SCALE MY PROJECT WILL CONSIST OF A DESIGN STRATEGY THAT WILL CONSIDER SUPPLYING THE NEED OF COMMUNITIES FOR CLEAN WATER AND WILL ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THIS WILL BE THROUGH INTERVENTIONS UNDER THREE MAJOR COMPONENTS: TREATMENT, STORAGE, AND RECREATION OF RIPARIAN ENVIRONMENT AS A LOCAL HUB; THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ACCORDINGLY TO THE DIFFERENT TYPOLOGIES OF THE RIVER.



-  Riparian Corridor
-  Storage
-  Treatment
-  Cultural stops



# P R O J E C T C O N C E P T

Mood image for treatment



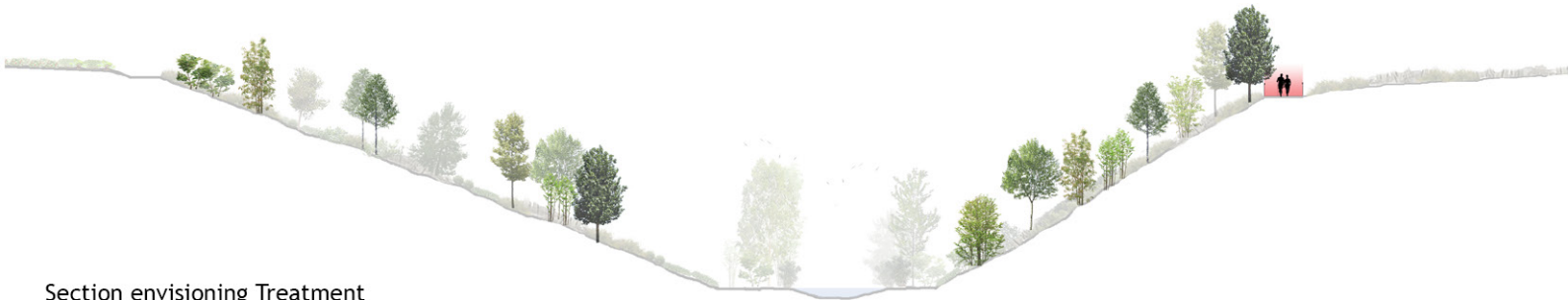
Mood image for Storage



Sections envisioning Riparian Corridor



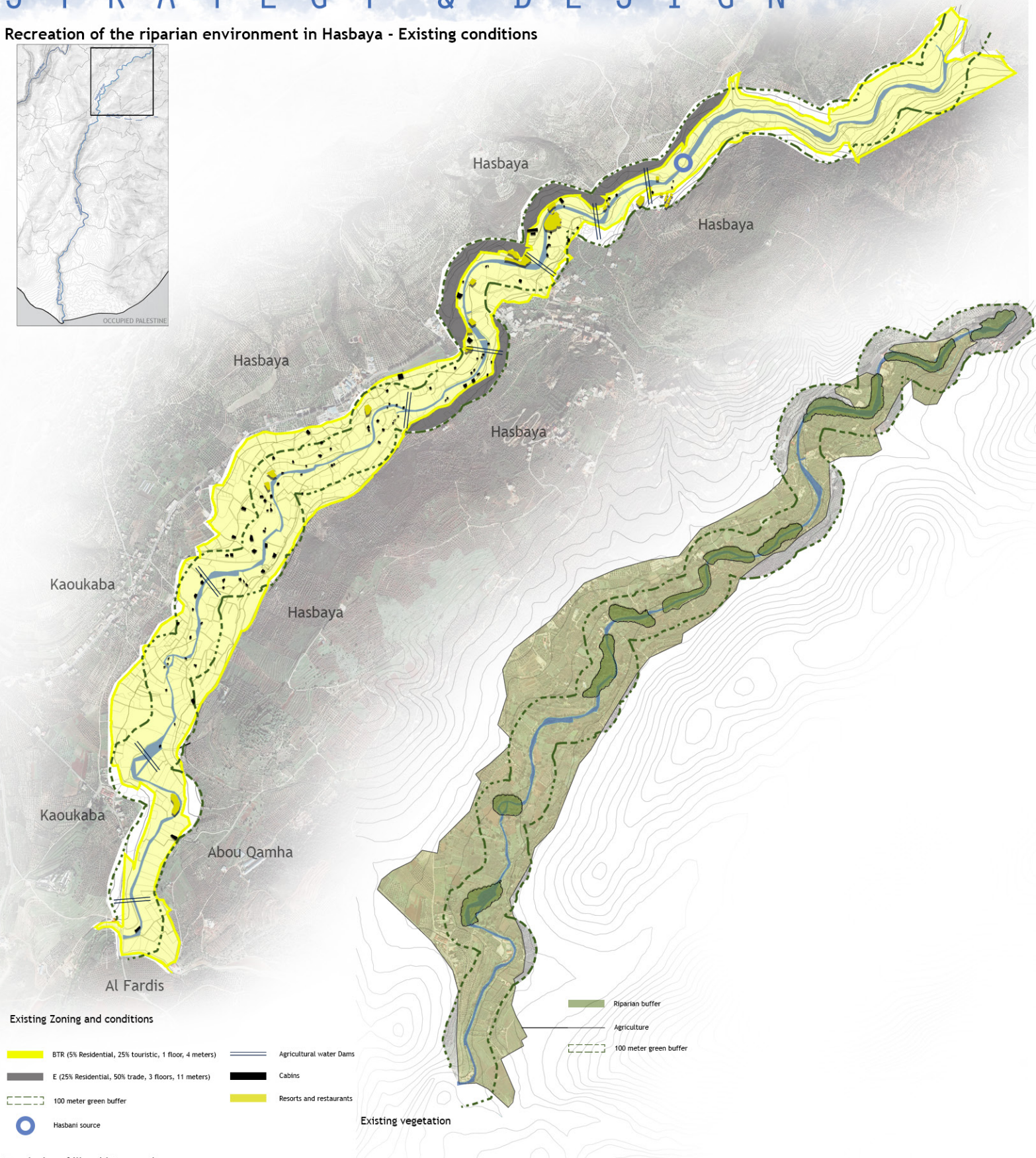
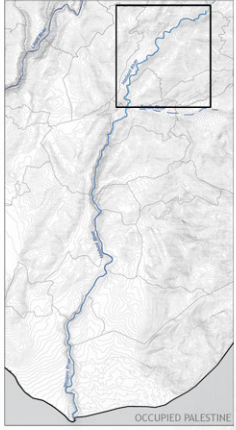
Section envisioning Treatment



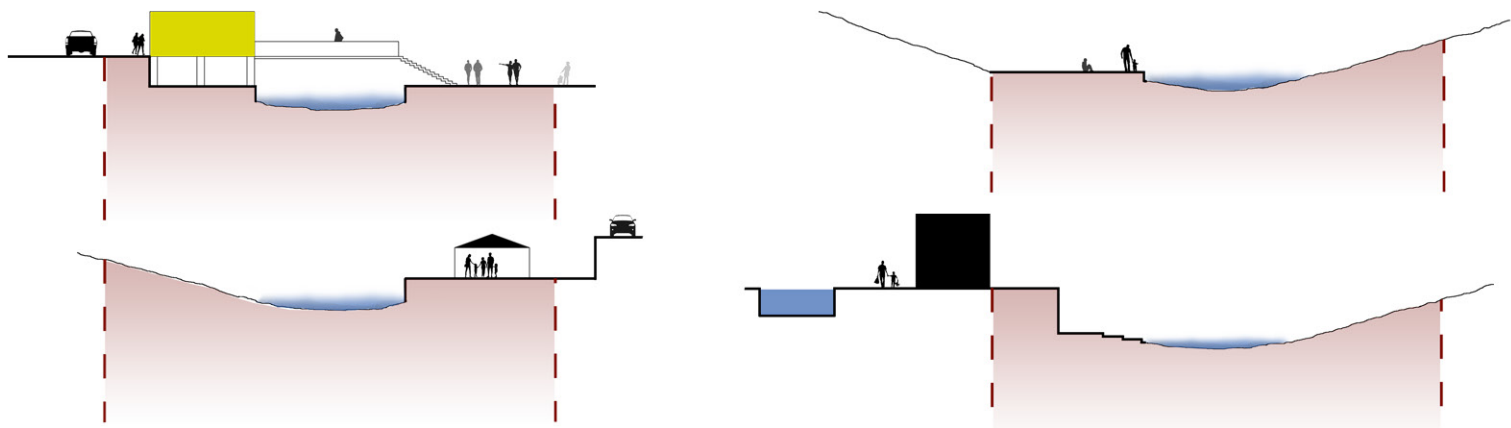
Section envisioning Storage



## Recreation of the riparian environment in Hasbaya - Existing conditions



### Typologies of illegal interventions



## Recreation of the riparian environment in Hasbaya - Strategy

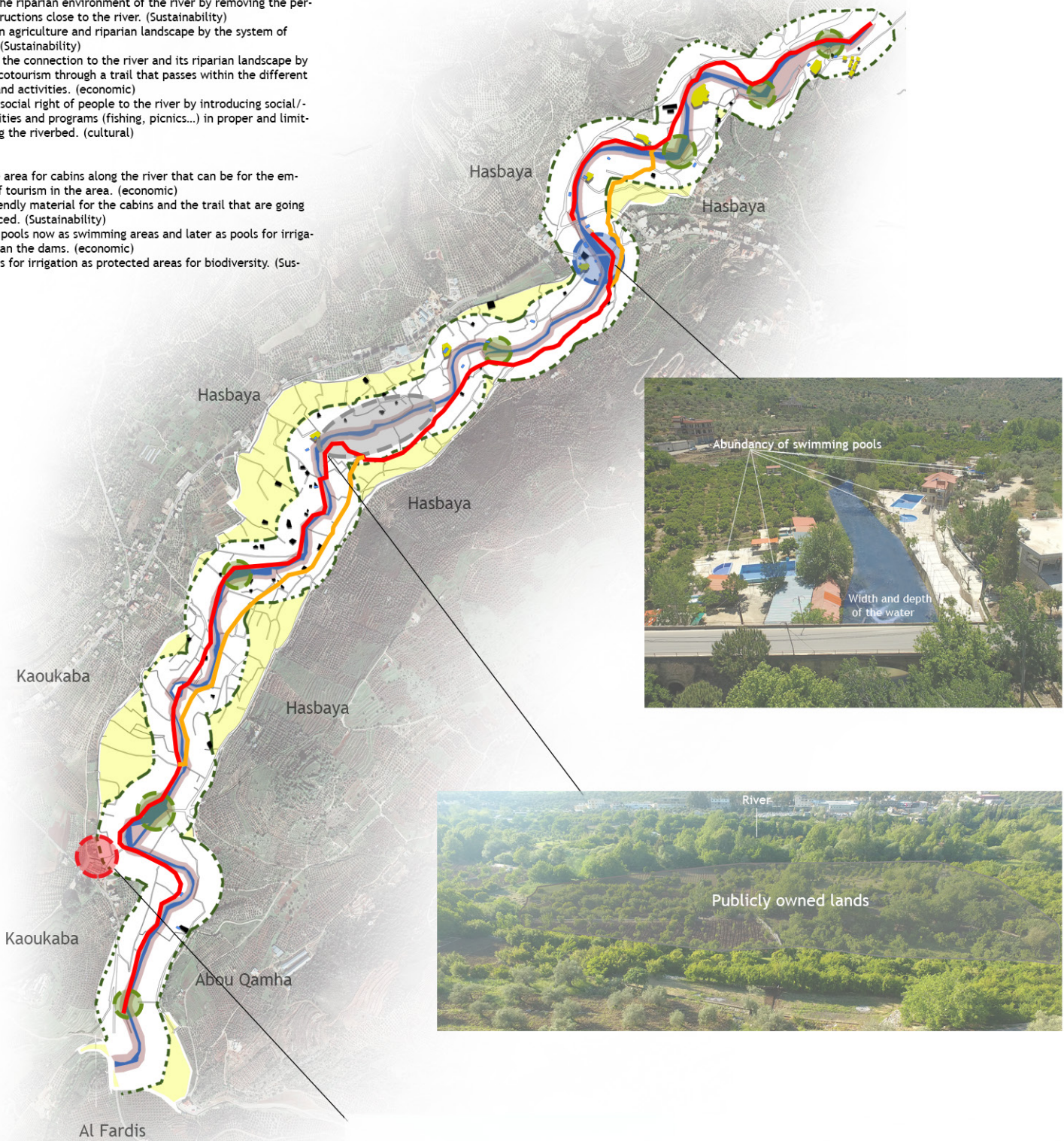
### Actions:

#### Large scale

- Reclaiming the riparian environment of the river by removing the permanent constructions close to the river. (Sustainability)
- Link between agriculture and riparian landscape by the system of Agroforestry. (Sustainability)
- Empowering the connection to the river and its riparian landscape by introducing ecotourism through a trail that passes within the different experiences and activities. (economic)
- Reclaim the social right of people to the river by introducing social/cultural activities and programs (fishing, picnics...) in proper and limited areas along the riverbed. (cultural)

#### Small scale

- Allocate one area for cabins along the river that can be for the empowerment of tourism in the area. (economic)
- Using ecofriendly material for the cabins and the trail that are going to be introduced. (Sustainability)
- Use existing pools now as swimming areas and later as pools for irrigation rather than the dams. (economic)
- Use the dams for irrigation as protected areas for biodiversity. (Sustainability)

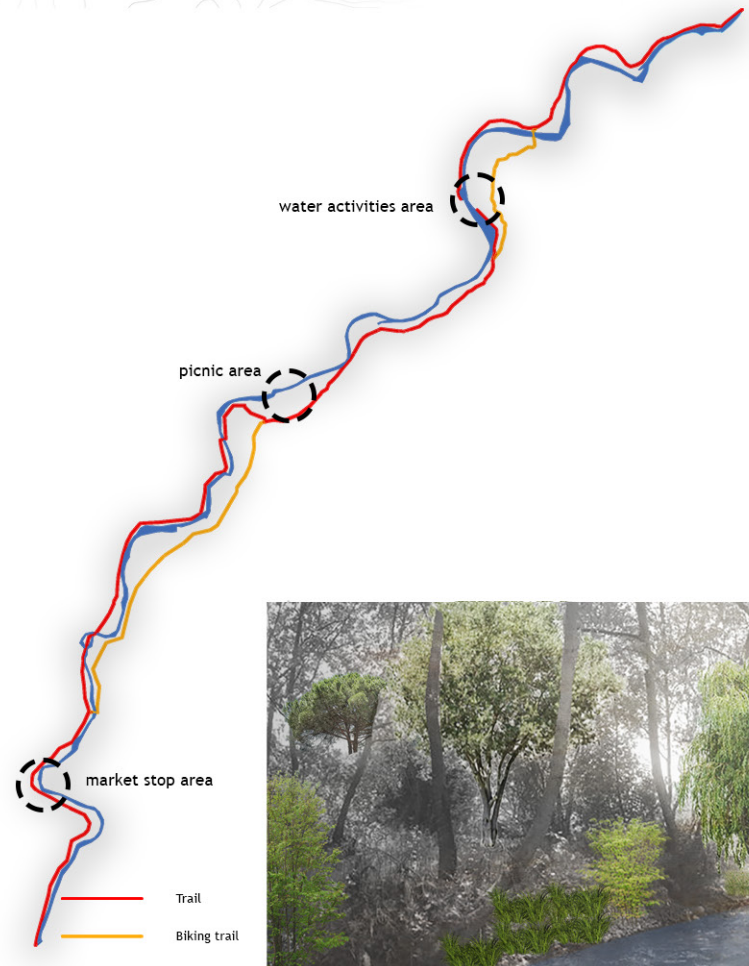
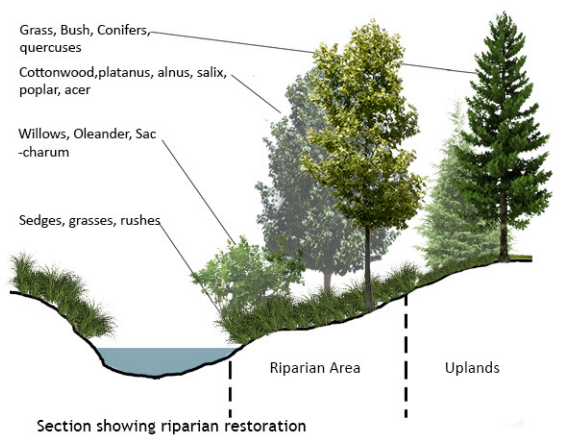
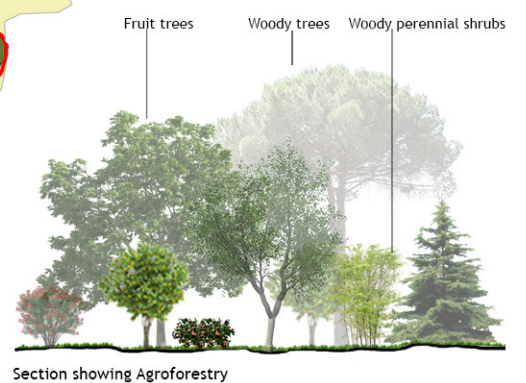
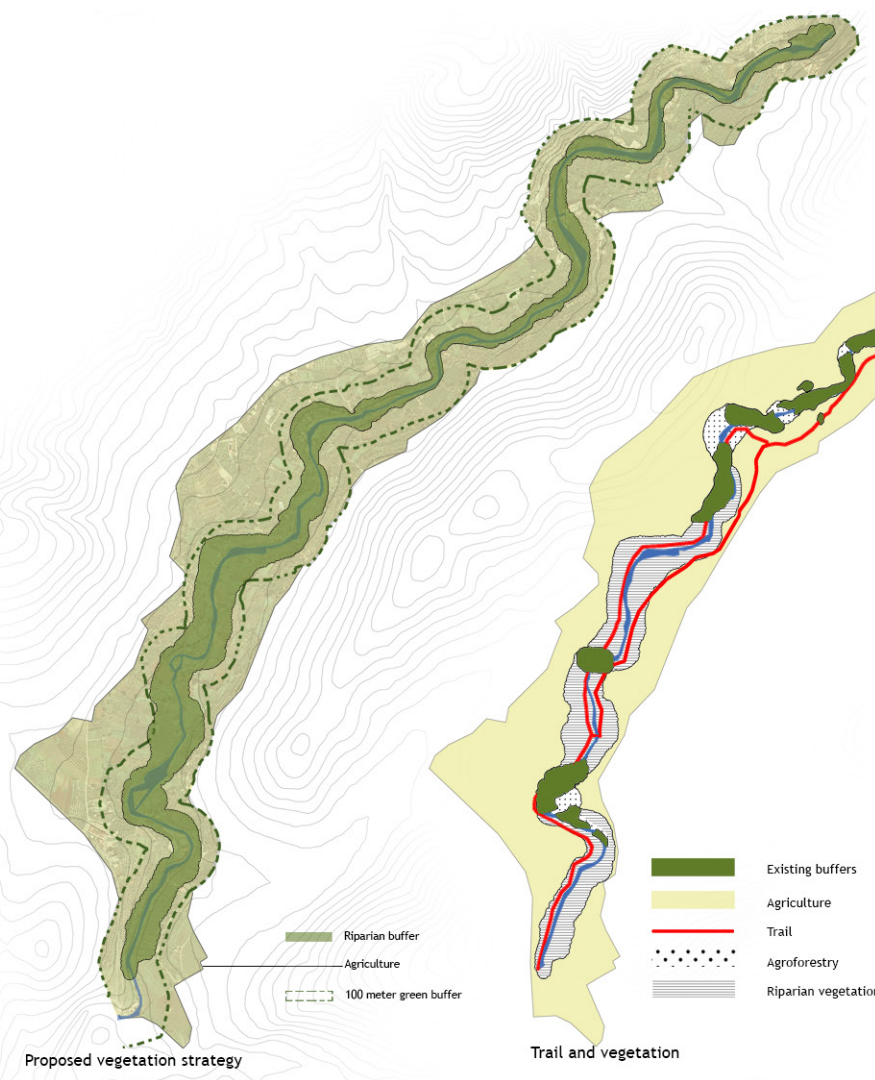


### Proposed strategy

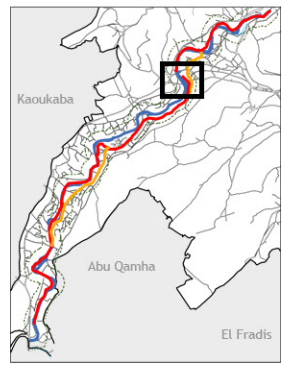
- BTR (5% Residential, 25% touristic, 1 floor, 4 meters)
- 15 meters set back from the river; Built removal
- 100 meter green buffer
- Limited access zones
- Market stop
- Water activities zone
- Picnic zone
- Trail
- Bike Trail


















## Water activities area



Strategy diagram

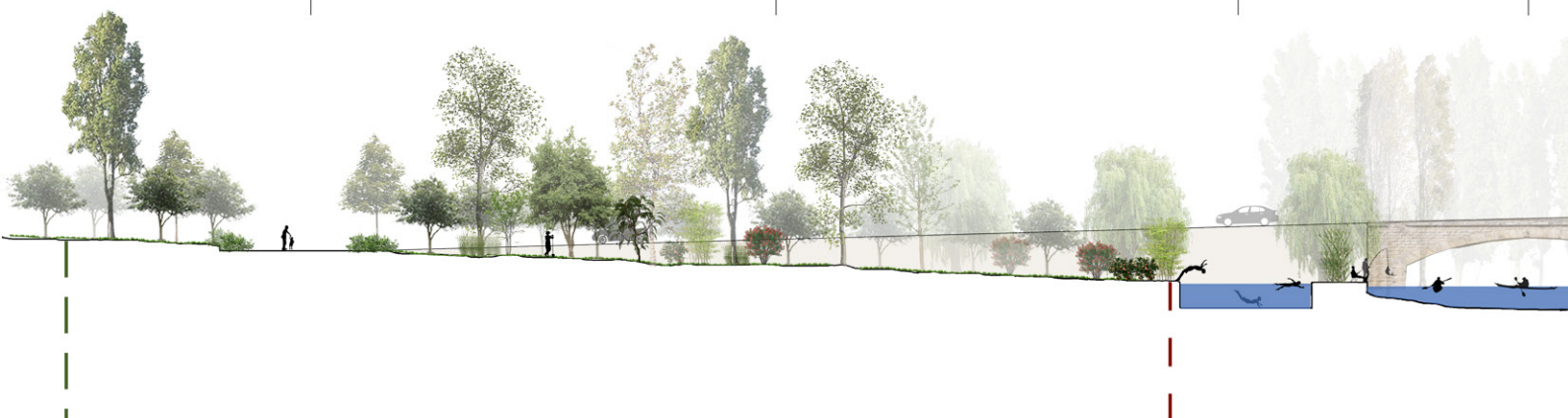
- |   |                                 |  |                                  |   |                          |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Connection through agroforestry |  | 100 meters green buffer set back |  | 15 meters legal set back |
|  | Accessibility                   |  | Pedestrian access                |  | Biking Trail             |
|  | Parking                         |  | Trail                            |   | Riparian restoration     |
|  | Boats Parking                   |  | Constructions to be removed      |   |                          |

Pedestrian road

Riparian Restoration

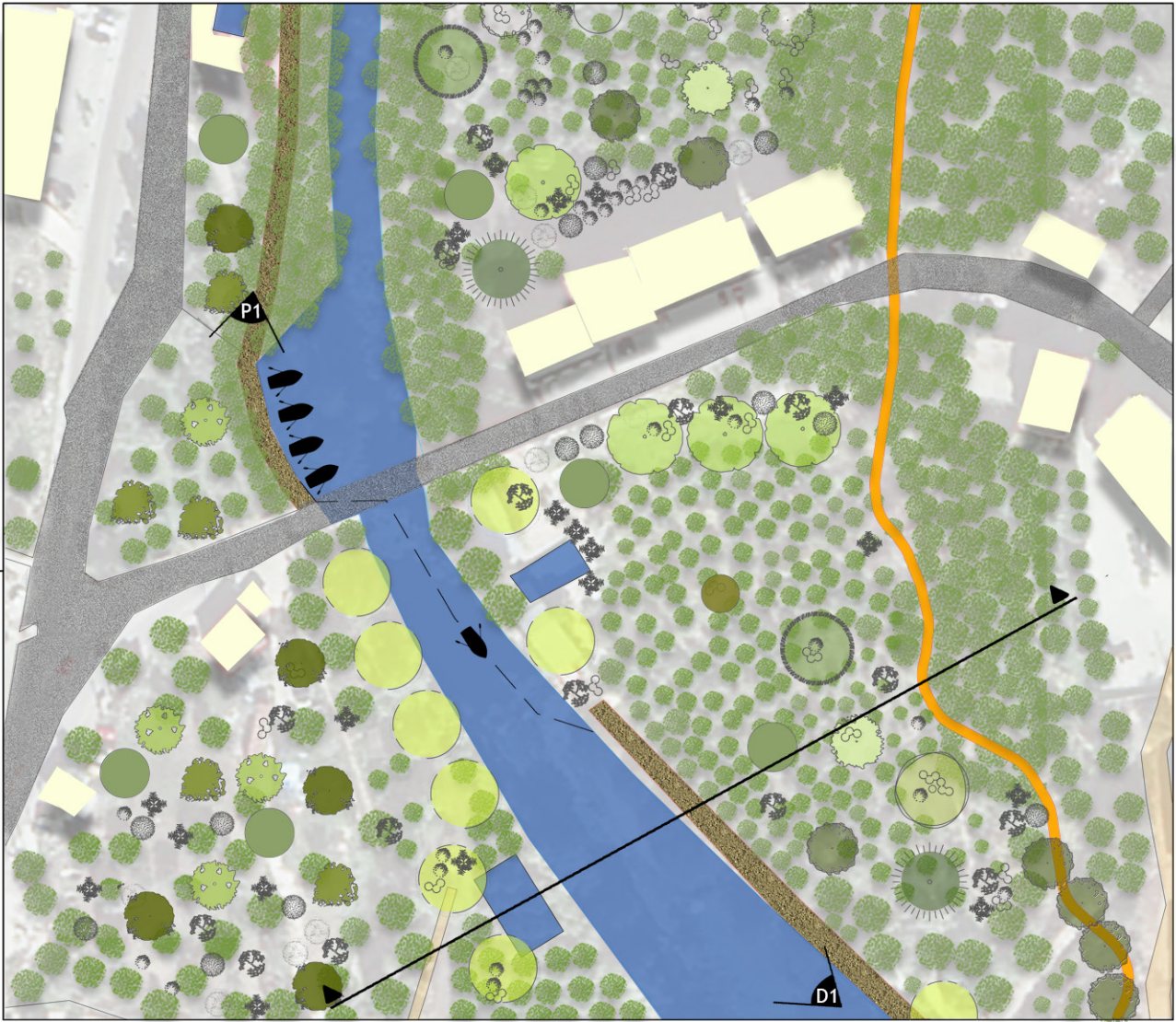
Swimming pool

River



Section

# DESIGN INTERVENTIONS



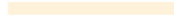
Zoom in



Bike lane



Walking trail



Pedestrian access

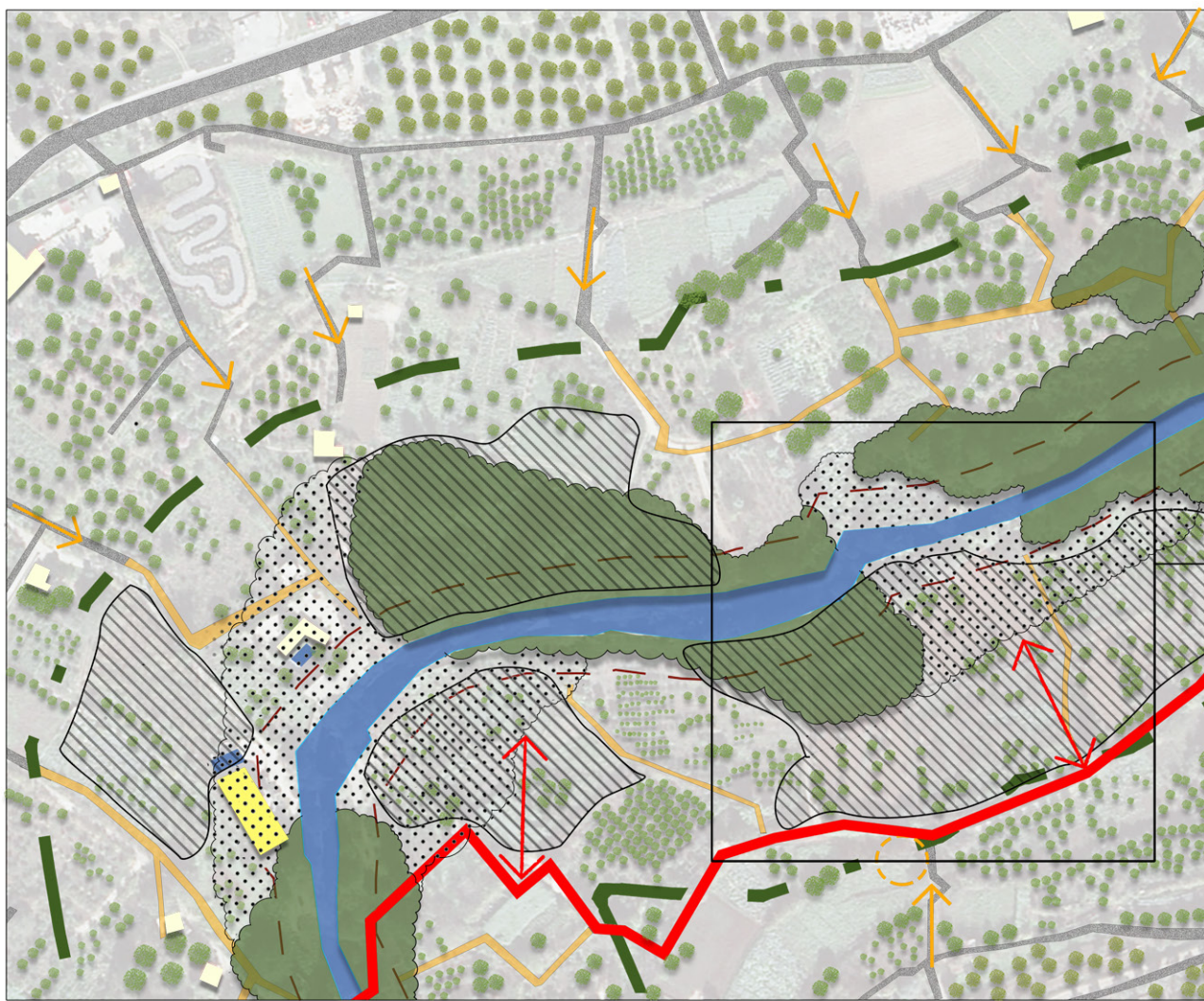
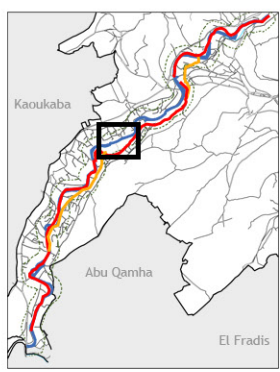
Walking trail

Agroforestry








Biking trail



## Picnic area



Strategy diagram

-  Connection through agroforestry
-  Accessibility
-  15 meters legal set back
-  100 meters green buffer set back
-  Parking
-  Areas potential for picnic
-  Constructions to be removed

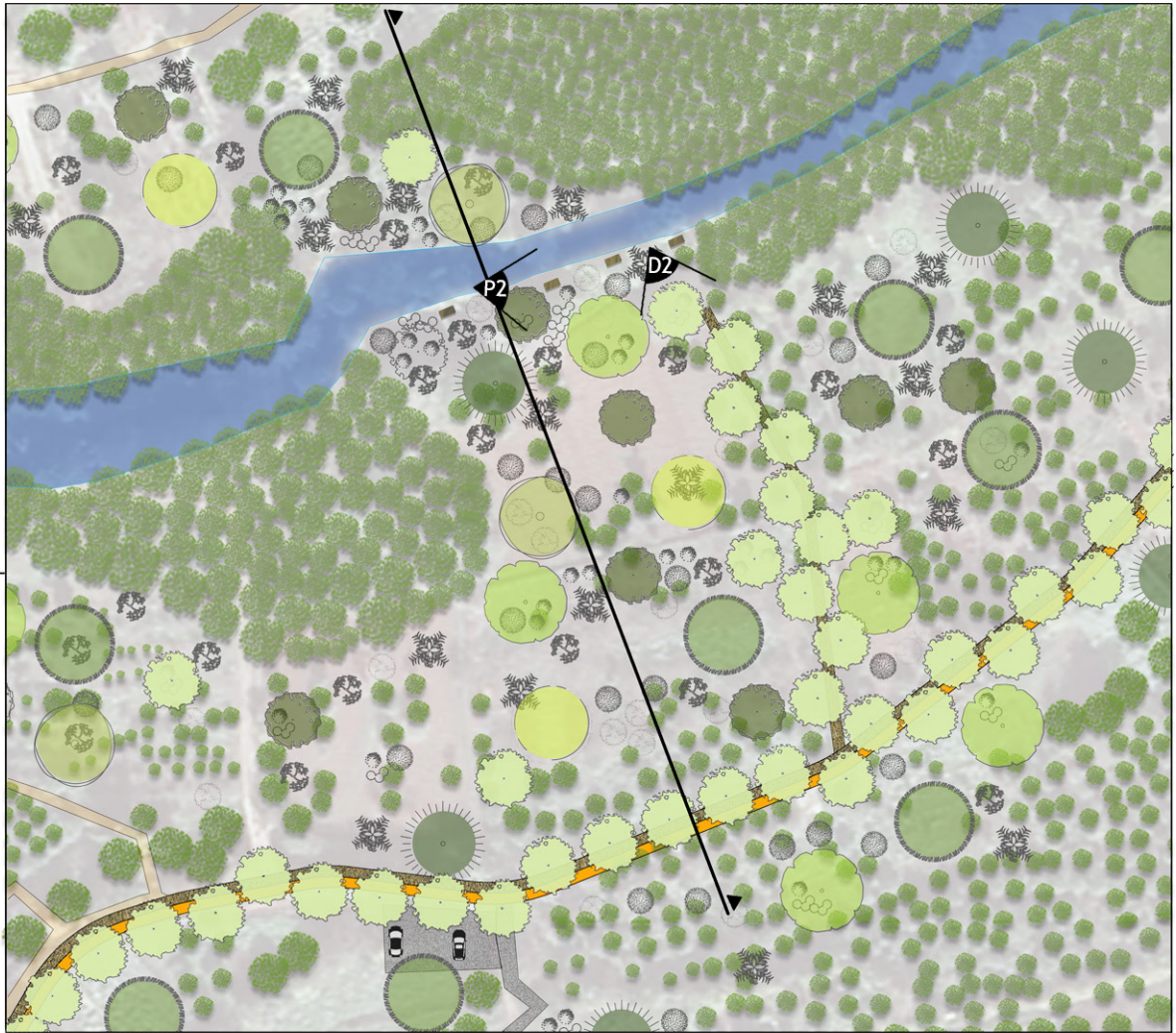
Pedestrian road

Riparian restoration

River



Section



- Pedestrian access
- Trail
- Visual connection
- Bike lane
- Walking trail
- Pedestrian access

Benches

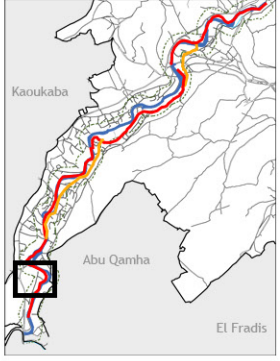
Picnic area

Picnic area



Trails



## Market stop area

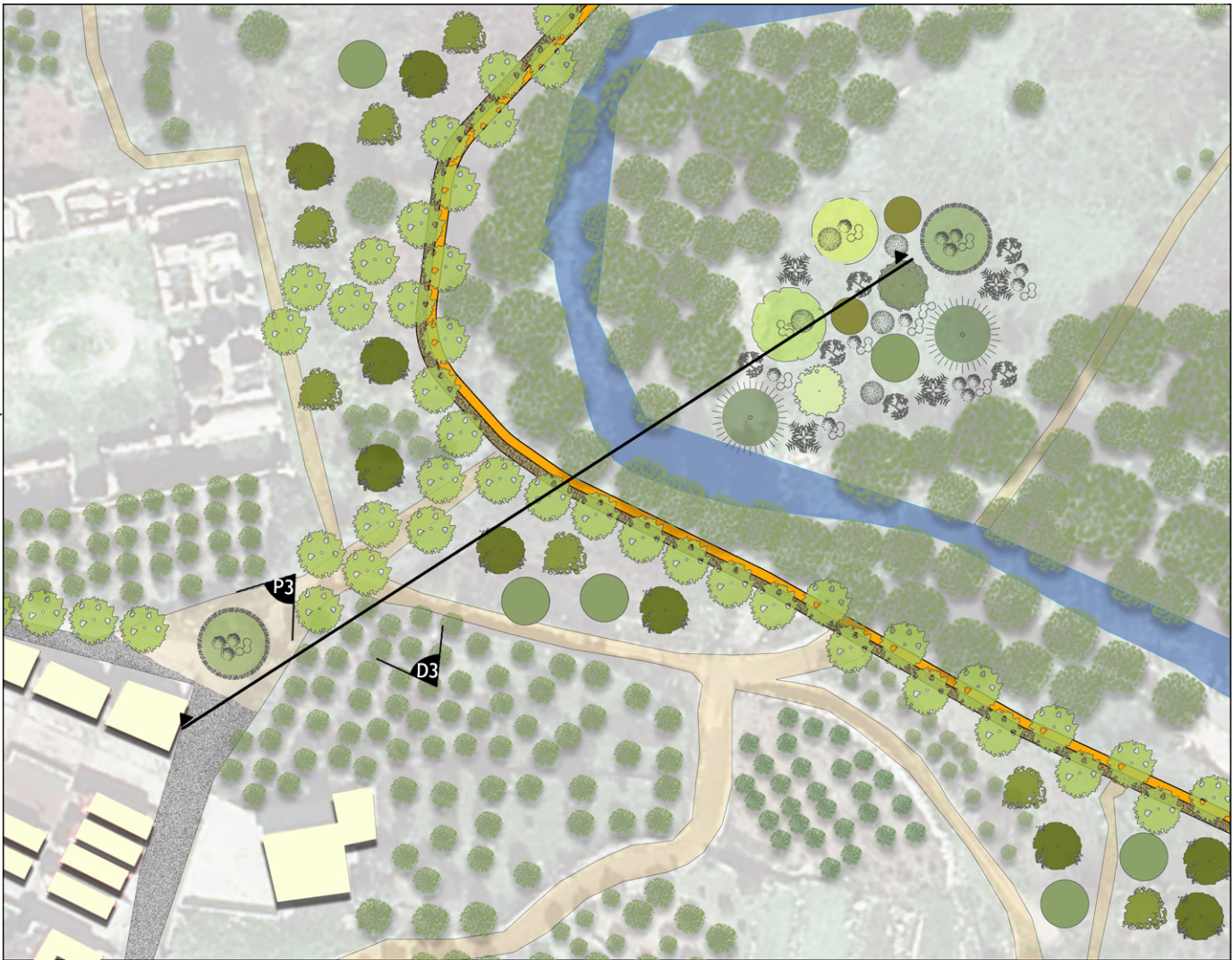
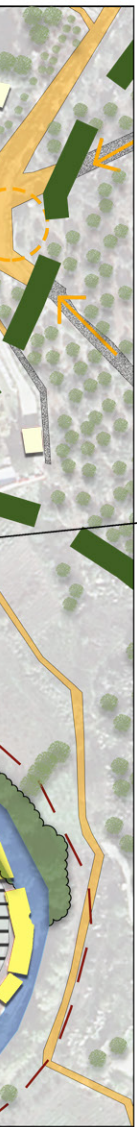


Strategy diagram

-  Connection through agroforestry
-  100 meters green buffer set back
-  Construction
-  Accessibility
-  Pedestrian access
-  15 meters
-  Parking
-  Trail
-  Riparian restoration
-  Visual connection



Section



Zoom in

-  Bike lane
-  Walking trail
-  Pedestrian access

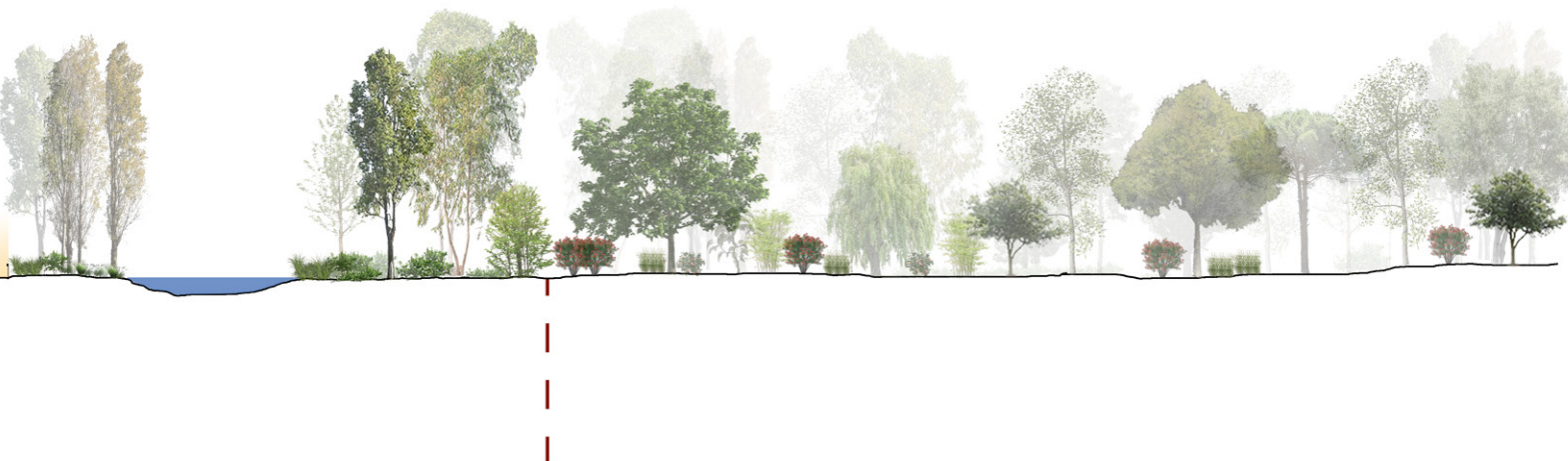
ctions to be removed  
ers legal set back

onnection

ails

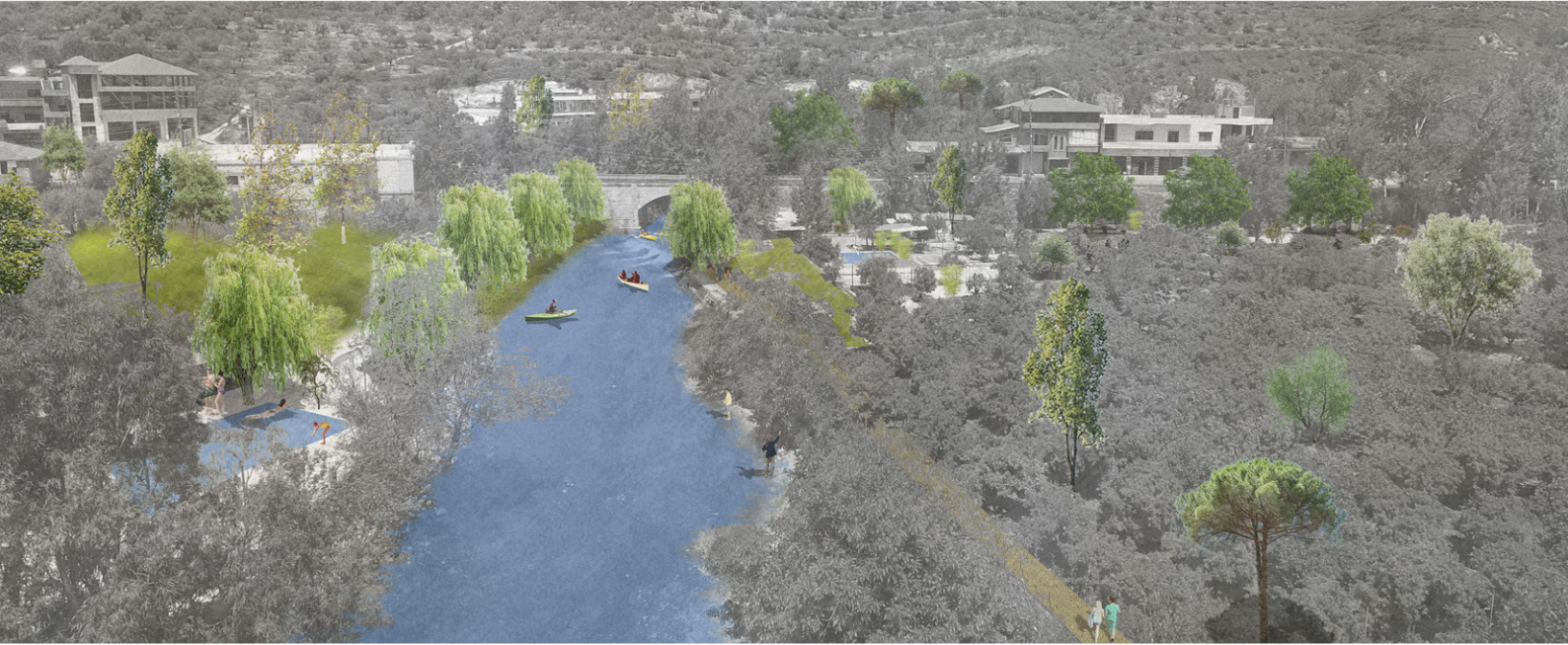
River

Agroforestry



# DESIGN INTERVENTIONS

## Drone perspectives



Water activities area (D1)



Picnic area (D2)



Market stop area (D3)



## Detail perspectives



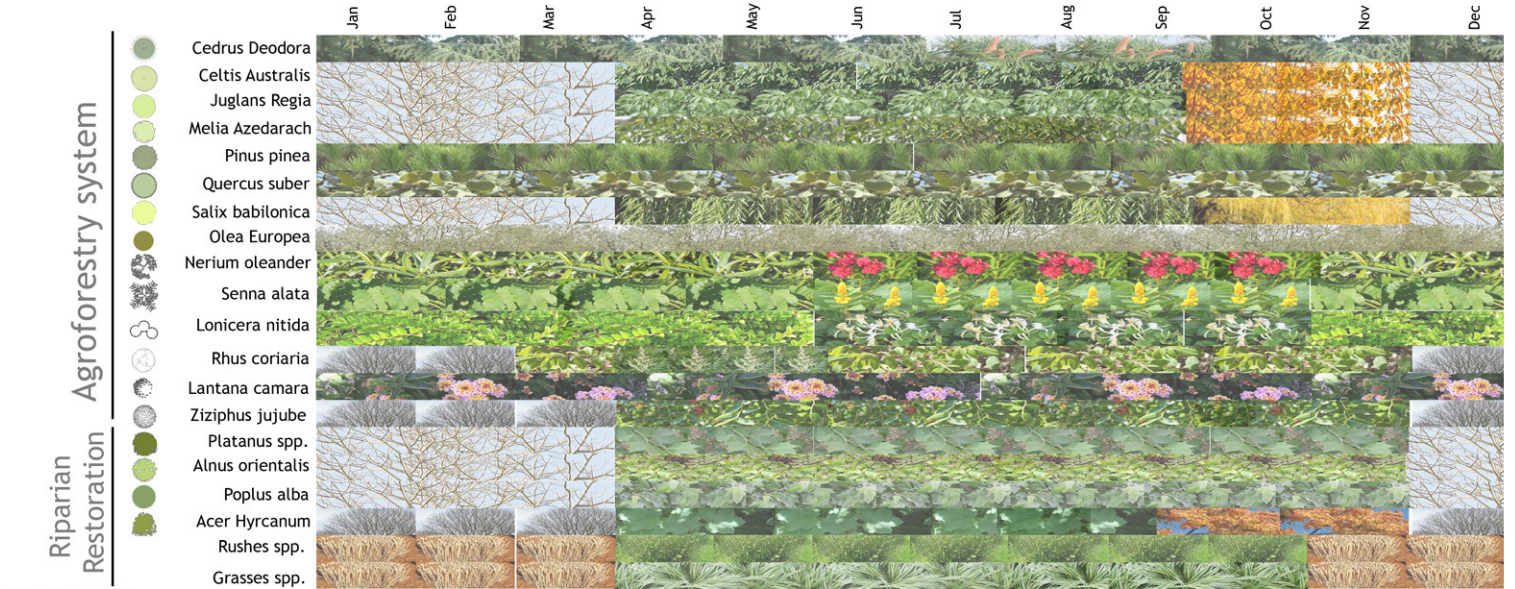
Boats activity in water activities area (P1)



Private benches in picnic area (P2)



Resting spot in market stop area (P3)





Comair, Fadi G. *Water Management and Hydrodiplomacy of River Basins: Litani, Hasbani-Wazzani, Orontes, Nahr El Kebir*. Notre Dame University - Louaize, Zouk Mikayel, 2009.

*Environmental Imaginaries of the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Diana K. Davis, and Edmund Burke, Ohio University Press, 2011. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aub-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1743690>.

Johnson, Eileen S., Kathleen P. Bell, and Jessica E. Leahy. "Disamenity to Amenity: Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Social Response to River Restoration Progress." *Landscape and Urban Planning*, vol. 169, 2018, pp. 208-219.

Khayyat, Munira. *A Landscape of War: On the Nature of Conflict in South Lebanon*, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2013.

Scherr, Sara J., Seth Shames, and Rachel Friedman. "From Climate-Smart Agriculture to Climate-Smart Landscapes." *Agriculture & Food Security*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2012, pp. 12-12.

Shaban, Amin, and Mouïñ Hamzé. *Shared Water Resources of Lebanon*. Nova Science Publisher's, New York, 2017.

Wall, et al. *Landscape and Agency: Critical Essays*. Routledge Ltd, Milton, 2017;2018;; doi:10.4324/9781315647401.

Zeitoun, M, K.Eid-Sabbagh , M.Dajani and M. Talhami, 2012. *Hydro-political Baseline of the Upper Jordan River*. Beirut, Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd el Al.

